

REGULAR WEEKLY SESSION ----- ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL

July 6, 2004

9:00 a.m.

The Council of the City of Roanoke met in regular session on Tuesday, July 6, 2004, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 212, Roanoke Higher Education Center, 108 North Jefferson Street, City of Roanoke, Virginia, with Mayor C. Nelson Harris presiding, pursuant to Chapter 2, Administration, Article II, City Council, Section 2-15, Rules of Procedure, Rule 1, Regular Meetings, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, and pursuant to Resolution No. 36746-062104, adopted by the Council on Monday, June 21, 2004.

PRESENT: Council Members M. Rupert Cutler, Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., Sherman P. Lea, Brian J. Wishneff and Mayor C. Nelson Harris---6.

ABSENT: None-----0.

The Mayor declared the existence of a quorum.

SCHOOL TRUSTEES PRESENT: David B. Trinkle, Robert J. Sparrow, Courtney A. Penn, William H. Lindsey, Alvin L. Nash, Kathy G. Stockburger, and Gloria P. Manns, Chair-----7.

ABSENT: None-----0.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Representing the City of Roanoke: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

Representing Roanoke City Schools: Doris N. Ennis, Acting Superintendent, Roanoke City Public Schools; Cindy H. Lee, Clerk to the School Board; and Richard L. Kelley, Assistant Superintendent for Operations.

CITY COUNCIL-SCHOOLS: The Mayor announced that the meeting would be conducted as a joint session of the Council and the Roanoke City School Board for the purpose of receiving a report by the School Safety/Discipline Task Force and certain other agenda items if time permits.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Council Member Sherman P. Lea.

SCHOOLS: Mayor Harris expressed appreciation to the School Board and to the School Safety/Discipline Task Force for the opportunity to meet with them.

School Board Chair Manns recognized Acting Superintendent of Schools, Doris N. Ennis, Courtney A. Penn who began his first term on the School Board on July 1, 2004, and Alvin L. Nash, who also began his first full three term on the School Board on July 1. (Mr. Nash was previously appointed to the School Board on January 5, 2004, to fill the unexpired term of Melinda J. Payne, resigned, ending June 30, 2004.)

A committee was appointed approximately eight months ago to collect public comment on issues of school safety and discipline in Roanoke's schools; and members of the Task Force, all of whom were not present are:

Ellen Allmon, Teacher, Monterey Elementary School
 Captain William Althoff, Patrol Captain, Roanoke Police Department
 Carol Brash, First Vice-President, Central Council Parent Teacher Association
 Allisha Childless, Senior, William Fleming High School
 Ruth Claytor, Teacher, William Fleming High School
 James d'Alelio, Teacher, Breckinridge Middle School
 Jean Dixon, Teacher, Woodrow Wilson Middle School
 Mark Farrell, Teacher, Jackson Middle School
 Rachel Frazier, Teacher, Fallon Park Elementary School
 Ben Garden, Student, Patrick Henry High School
 Kaye Hale, Executive Director, West End Center, Chair, School Safety Advisory Committee
 Virginia Hardin, Director, Prevention Plus, Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare
 Jenny Kay Harris, Teacher, William Ruffner Middle School
 Kathryn Hatam, Senior, William Fleming High School
 Rodger Hogan, School Resource Officer
 Anita Manley, School Liaison Officer, Dept. of Juvenile Justice
 Alice McCaffrey, President, Central Council Parent Teacher Association
 Kay McGrath, Teacher, James Madison Middle School, Member of the School Safety Advisory Committee
 Ed McMichael, Teacher, Patrick Henry High School
 Daniel Merenda, Executive Director, Roanoke Adolescent Health Partnership
 Susan Morris, Assistant Principal, William Fleming High School
 Juan Motley, Bus Driver, Roanoke City Public Schools
 James O'Hare, Youth Counselor Supervisor, Sanctuary Crisis Intervention Center
 Katie Pero, Teacher, Grandin Court Elementary School
 Anita Price, Counselor, Round Hill Elementary School, President, Roanoke Education Association
 Connie Radcliffe, Principal, Woodrow Wilson Middle School
 Annette Shupe, Principal, Morningside Elementary School
 Timothy Spence, Detective, Roanoke City Police Department
 Faten Taneeb, Refugee and Immigration Services, Roanoke, Virginia
 Carter Varner, Junior, Patrick Henry High School

Barton Wilner, Past Chair, Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce,
Owner, Entre Computer Center
Jinny Woodall-Gainey, Teacher, Addison Aerospace Middle School

Virginia Hardin, Director, Prevention Plus, Blue Ridge Behavioral Health Care, presented opening remarks on behalf of the Task Force. She advised that the context in which the Task Force was appointed and began its work was one that had much community and school based fear, anxiety and concerns about the safety of children, faculty and staff, which issues were partly coming from school based actual incidents and community incidents that appeared to be gradually escalating last year. She stated that fear and anxiety are sometimes more a matter of perception than actual facts, therefore, part of what the Task Force saw itself responsible for was to look at what is actually happening, what are some of the perceptions and concerns, and how reality based are those perceptions and concerns. She advised that the work of the Task Force became more and more complex, there appeared to be a lack of unity among community leaders about how to best address concerns, therefore, the "blame game" was about to surface, and the Task Force had a charge of trying to stop this unproductive process. She stated that another issue of concern was that bullying behavior in the Roanoke Valley was escalating, following national trends; therefore, the Task Force began its work with a sense of urgency and responsibility, members came together to work on identifying the complexities of the problems as well as the solutions, the process was difficult for many reasons because the task was complex, the issues were high stake and administrative support from the consultant was insufficient which caused more work by Task Force members and volunteers. She advised that the Task Force is proud of the report and the work that went into the document and believes that it has proposed a road map to increase school safety and to address public anxiety; the Task Force considers the recommendations to be a "recipe" and not a "menu"; i.e.: when one looks at the recommendations, one cannot pick and choose the easy ones, but must look at the entire picture. She stated that the Task Force is committed to implementation of the recommendations and members are willing to be a part of the process and it is hoped that resources will be allocated in that direction. She added that survey statistics are not statistically sound samples of parent, student, and faculty population, therefore, there is a concern that non representative samples of the data will be discounted.

Task Force members presented various sections of the report. The following is an Executive Summary:

Introduction:

The report is the culmination of eight months of work to collect public comment on issues of school safety and discipline in the Roanoke, Virginia, public schools. A Joint Steering Committee composed of key leaders from the school system and the City

established a Safety/Discipline Task Force. They asked school, agency, and government groups to nominate people to represent them. The final Task Force membership was composed of 32 individuals. The following executive summary highlights significant Task Force conclusions.

Task Force Process:

The Joint Steering Committee, Chaired by C. Nelson Harris, City Council Member, included E. Wayne Harris, Superintendent of Schools; Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; Joe Gaskins, Chief of Police, Gloria P. Manns, Chair, Roanoke School Board; Kathy G. Stockburger, School Board Member; and Linda F. Wyatt, City Council Member. The Joint Steering Committee interviewed Paula Wilder for the job of facilitating/leading the Task Force and hired her based on her scope and sequence proposal for the work of the Task Force. The Task Force held 11 meetings, many of which were attended by the media, and work culminated with a final report to the Joint Steering Committee.

Data and Statistical Reliability:

The Task Force was charged with collecting public comment. It did so by: (1) conducting public forums at four non-school locations; (2) conducting three surveys (students, parents and bus drivers); (3) studying the Roanoke Education Association survey; and (4) examining the work of previous safety related groups. All of the data included in the report, save Student Surveys, must be considered non-probability, non-representative samples, and can be considered to represent the opinions of the people who chose to participate and/or had access to the surveys.

Conducting Successful Parent Surveys:

The Task Force was unsuccessful in gathering a representative sample of parent opinions across the City and many factors may have contributed to this. In the Future Considerations section of the report (page 17), ideas are suggested for improving the process in the future.

The Larger Context of Our Work: Leadership and Economic Development:

The City of Roanoke and the School Board need to define the vision and goals for school safety and discipline. Once defined, all decisions regarding this issue should meet this standard.

An opportunity exists in top school leadership to identify a candidate for school superintendent who has a clear vision and experience in addressing the issues that emerge in this report.

The Safety Task Force realizes that inaccurate reporting and limited data does not necessarily indicate unsafe conditions; however, the perception of poor discipline and safety is real to many stakeholders. There is a need to realize that poor discipline and safety not only makes for a poor and unsafe learning and teaching environment for student and school personnel, it is also the cause for families to seek other school systems and for the school system to lose many good teachers and administrators each year.

Good businesses seek communities with good school systems so that employees have the benefits of good educations for their children and so that their work force is filled with talented and skilled workers. Consequently, loss of teachers and administrators has a direct impact on the City's efforts toward economic development – attracting and keeping good businesses for the Roanoke Valley that will support skilled jobs, which, in turn, builds more prosperity for the entire community (parents, students and citizens).

Working Definition of School Safety:

School safety results when all stakeholders (students, parents, teachers, administrators, community leaders and citizens) and the school community share responsibility for creating an environment that reveres knowledge through: a secure environment, freedom from fear (physical and emotional fear and danger, mutual respect and concern, communication, clearly defined roles and accountability, pride and ownership.

A summary of findings is as follows:

Are Students Safe?

The fundamental question of the work of the Safety/Discipline Task Force is: Are students safe? While a variety of findings show that improvement can and should be made, it is also clear that the majority of students and parents give Roanoke City Schools safety better than passing grades. However, these "Safety GPA's" deteriorate from high ratings at the elementary level to significantly lower ratings by high school. Students were also asked about how safe they feel, physically, and if they felt unsafe, where.

While locations varied by level, the most frequently cited unsafe areas were: cafeteria, hallways, restrooms, locker rooms and school buses and/or bus stops.

Bullying:

From the data, it can be concluded that bullying is an issue at all levels of the Roanoke City Schools. While the majority of students indicated that they had not been bullied this year (60 per cent plus), there still exists a substantial number of students who indicated that they had been bullied or had seen others bullied.

Classroom Safety:

Classroom safety was a central issue for the Task Force. When students were asked to check which areas of the schools they felt unsafe in, a small number indicated that they felt unsafe in their classrooms. The majority of teachers agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe in their schools. The Roanoke Education Association upper grade level respondents indicated that they felt less safe than lower grade level respondents.

At this point, the distinction between safety issues and discipline issues blurs. Some incidents are distinctly safety issues: ice on sidewalks, for example. Other incidents are distinctly discipline issues: tardiness to class. Some behaviors are both safety and discipline issues: fighting, smoking in restrooms, bullying, the antagonistic way we talk.

Consistency of School Discipline:

One key Task Force mission was to discern whether school discipline was consistent within schools and across the school district. Data reveals a strong pattern of concern by parents, students and teachers that school discipline consistency needs an overhaul.

Adjudication vs. School-Based Discipline:

School Based Discipline as it rates to adjudicated behaviors was a central concern of the Joint Steering Committee. The Task Force thinks it is best to conduct a forum of all professionals involved in juvenile justice issues including Juvenile Justices, police officers, school administrators, school liaison officials and social service agencies to identify areas for improvement. Task Force members have great respect for the court system's juvenile justices and want

to engage them in dialogue with all stakeholders regarding how to improve the system for Roanoke area youth.

School Resource Officers:

The Task Force was asked to examine the role of School Resource Officers. Survey data indicated that School Resource Officers have a favorable rating by students. Students asked for more SROs and Security Officers, particularly at the upper grade levels. SROs and the administrative team on which they serve can do a better job of clarifying roles with students and among themselves. The Safety Task Force concludes that a strong team approach between SROs and school administrators is essential. Great communication is what it takes for SROs and the school's leadership team to be highly effective. It is important to note that elementary schools do not have full-time SROs.

Security:

Students were given two opportunities to write in suggestions for improving school safety. First, if they did not give their school an A rating, they were asked what was missing; and second, if they could change one thing to improve school safety, what would it be. Write-in answers by students requested more people and supervision (SROs, security guards, supervision). Older students cited security measures such as increased cameras, metal detectors, and better security around premises more frequently than younger students. One-fourth of high school students wrote in that more security (people and devices) were necessary in order to give school safety an A.

Three Additional Findings:

Inappropriate dress as a safety-discipline issue was cited by respondents of the Roanoke Education Association as one of the top four safety concerns at all levels of the school system.

Parent perception of effectiveness of suspensions on improving student behavior: In parent surveys, almost twice as many parents did not believe that suspension improves behavior as did those who believed that suspension improves behavior.

Guidance resources in intervention: Public forum listed (including training and counseling) as the third most frequently mentioned concern, citing the resources as not timely, not in-depth,

and inadequately funded. This area is not covered in teacher/student/parent surveys.

Joint Steering Committee Charge to Task Force:

1. Are Students and Teachers Safe in Classrooms? The findings reveal that the vast majority of teachers and students feel safe in their classrooms.
2. Is there consistency of Discipline? Inconsistency of discipline is an issue that concerns all stakeholders at all levels in the system.
3. What is the Role of School Resource Officers? School Resource Officers are most effective when they are a part of a team approach to a school's safety/discipline plan.
4. What is the relationship between adjudication and school-based discipline? The Task Force recommends a conference or forum that brings together all professionals who deal with serious, violent and chronic offenders to dialogue about how to make the system clearer and more effective.

Additional Task Force Conclusions:

5. Data says that safety is a human resource development issue more than a "bricks and mortar" issue. Physical plant safety issues are much less of concern than are people issues.

6. Increased concern for school safety and discipline at each level of schooling:

This relates to a general trend of "loss of confidence" in school safety at each level of schooling.

Consistency of handling discipline is a major concern among all populations surveyed and one that increases with each level of schooling.

7. Bullying and fights are a major issue that surface at all levels of schooling.
8. Consensus exists among all populations surveyed that discipline problems have been increasing over the past three years.
9. Places most frequently mentioned where safety is a concern are restrooms, hallways, cafeteria, locker rooms, classrooms and buses.

This was with a trend of lesser to greater concern over levels of schooling.

10. Communication, collaboration and community involvement rise to the surface as areas needing attention. Communication between and among central office, school leaders, School Resource Officers, and teachers; and externally between parents and school staff, are a concern with respect to student discipline and school safety. Increased involvement and collaboration with the community, parents, families, public agencies and the private sector regarding school safety is also an evident need.

11. Intolerance of differences among and between students regarding language, dress, culture and class contributes to safety problems in the schools. Task Force members suggest that intolerance grows beyond school walls and is rooted in the community.

Arenas for Action:

To sustain the kind of change needed to create safer schools, members of the Task Force believe that all parts of our system must change in unison from top to bottom and from bottom to top. The following five areas are, therefore, not a menu from which certain components can be selected and changed, but rather a recipe for safer schools that requires all components to interact and change together. School Board Policy, Superintendent, principals, teachers, School Resource Officers, parents, family and community must give permission and provide support to each other to sustain the change necessary to create safer schools in Roanoke City.

Summary of Recommendations:

Arena I: Human Service Development:

Development of all human resources that touch schools (all school personnel, parents, School Resource Officers, community) in communication, de-escalation training, effective discipline processes, bullying prevention, multi-cultural training and training that focuses on inclusive practices.

Arena II: Leadership, Policy and Operations:

Top and middle leaders in all stakeholder groups reach consensus on effective discipline policy and be proactive in preventing discipline problems. Administrators need to be firm, fair, and

consistent in their execution of discipline consequences. Top leaders need to evaluate discipline consistency at the system-wide level in a wide variety of areas. In addition, the Task Force believes it is time to examine current districting so that students at earlier ages can learn to get along with other children who represent the vast richness of people that live in Roanoke.

Arena III: Student Programs:

The Task Force recommends increased alternative programs for serious offenders (students who jeopardize other students' safety); prevention programs (bullying, intolerance); support programs for students such as increased mediation, mentoring and tutoring; positive programs that promote healthy citizenship (character education, cultural awareness, rewards programs); and increased assistance to children living in poverty.

Arena IV: Staffing:

The Task Force recommends more staff focused on safety, security and prevention.

Arena V: Communication, Collaboration, and Community:

Better communications throughout the Roanoke community on issues that impact school safety and discipline. This means better communication and collective work on the part of teachers, administrators, agencies, municipal government, and parents. In many ways, this arena is considered the keystone in assuring the effectiveness of all the other recommendations.

Future Considerations for Committee Work:

The Task Force embarked on an ambitious effort to conduct itself in a highly professional manner that would well serve all stakeholders of Roanoke City School safety and discipline. In the eight month period of its work, the Task Force learned some things that should be noted for future efforts:

Survey design could have been simpler in order to enable quicker collation.

Efforts should be made in the future to enable electronic data collection through web-based survey access.

Greater information and pre-planning regarding distribution and collection of surveys would enhance survey return numbers.

School principal and PTA communications are important in an effort of this kind.

The lack of consistent teacher and principal e-mail access impaired their ability to receive Task Force information in a timely manner. In many cases, e-mails from the Task Force facilitator could not be delivered or opened by teachers and principals.

Efforts of the Task Force did not specifically target the needs of special education students. Study of this population and its discipline and safety needs may be an important piece of sustainable solutions for improving school safety and discipline system-wide.

Additional monetary resources need to be allocated for data collation and for translating surveys or conducting focus groups with non-English speaking stakeholders.

(For full text, see summary report on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Chairperson Manns opened the floor for questions by Council and School Board Members.

Council Member Dowe called attention to regional areas of cooperation with Roanoke County, such as the recent formation of the Western Virginia Water Authority, and inquired as to the feasibility of a study to address regional school facilities, the number of students in both school systems, etc.

Council Member Wishneff inquired if a portion of the additional \$4,049,545.00 received from the State for the schools was used to implement any of the recommendations of the Task Force; whereupon, Mr. Kelley responded that in the fall of 2003, the School Board substantially expanded the Adolescent Uplift Program from \$75,000.00 to \$350,000.00, which is a program that serves those students, particularly at the middle school level, that have shown academic and discipline problems by placing them in an intensive learning environment at one of the middle schools after school hours where they receive special tutoring and other types of skill enhancements by teachers in an environment with a low pupil - teacher ratio; and the "New Beginnings" program was implemented this year at the high school level which will serve approximately 50 students, particularly at Patrick Henry High School, who have shown discipline and academic problems by taking the students out of the normal classroom environment and placing them in a special setting after normal school hours, which is estimated to cost approximately \$100,000.00; and \$350,000.00 was spent last year for security cameras and improved radio systems, particularly in the middle schools and some elementary schools. Next year, he stated that the School Board has approved increasing the number of middle school guidance counselors by four (three through the regular budget and one through a grant

program); \$200,000.00 has been allocated for additional security recommendations, and the School Board will prioritize recommendations from the Task Force to determine how the \$200,000.00 will be spent, plus certain year end funds can be used for such items as additional security cameras in the high schools and elementary schools and to enhance security systems at two of the middle schools. He added that when looking at the high school seventh period day, the fact that 17 additional staff will be employed will significantly improve the supervisory aspect at the high schools; the Patrick Henry High School construction project is on schedule and, in conjunction with the project, security will be enhanced over the next two years.

Council Member Lea commended the Task Force on its work and inquired about the status of a report that was prepared by Annie Harmon, former Executive Director for Student Services, during the time that he served on the School Board with regard to bullying.

Dr. Lou Talbot, Executive Director for Student Services, responded that the report has been addressed on a number of occasions, de-escalation training will continue beginning in September, and a component of de-escalation training is when respect begins, bullying ends; conflict remediation will continue; a School Police Summit will be held in August to allow School Resource Officers, principals and assistant principals to discuss consistency of discipline; and a request has been submitted to the Acting Superintendent of Schools to hire an employee on a part-time basis to coordinate discipline and transportation issues and a number of other suggestions are under consideration.

Council Member Cutler expressed appreciation to the Task Force for the quality of its work. He spoke in support of identifying priorities and steps to be taken in the next two to three years, while not losing focus on the continuing improvement of academic excellence in Roanoke's school system by accentuating the positive.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick expressed concern that this is a much greater problem than just safety in Roanoke's public schools and says a great deal about the fact that cultures have not been integrated in the Roanoke Valley.

The Mayor advised that while there are some things that the Task Force has identified that have budgetary implications, there are, however, some significant findings that are not budgetary in nature. He stated that when one-half of the high school teachers respond that they are not supported regarding discipline matters, that is not a budget issue. He called attention to such things as consistency in discipline, trust, appropriate response to concerns, enforcement of the dress code and existing policies, all of which are significant findings by the Task Force that are not budgetary in nature, but are personnel related issues and should be highly emphasized by the School Board as the Board begins to work through the recommendations. He stated that Roanoke's school system can

have the best buildings, all the necessary training for staff, and all the necessary programs in place, but if a teacher takes a discipline concern to his or her administrator and the teacher is not supported, all is in vain. He advised that the Council and the School Board owe the Task Force and the larger community a six month follow up report and a 12 month follow up report, with a status report on what has been done on each specific recommendation. He stated that he takes seriously the concern of the Task Force that its report not be shelved and that the Council and the School Board have accountability to the Task Force and to the community to report back at regular intervals. He added that he has met with and will continue to meet with the City Manager, in conjunction with the Interim School Superintendent and the School Board Chair, on a regular monthly basis to monitor the report and to be supportive of efforts to accomplish the kinds of things that have been presented by the Task Force.

The Mayor called attention to certain preliminary actions that have been taken by the City; i.e.: the most obvious element of school safety involvement is the School Resource Officer program, and, as a community, the City of Roanoke has more police officers assigned to its schools per capita than any other locality in the Commonwealth of Virginia; the Police Department is internally assessing and reviewing its role and the nature of school discipline and has identified certain issues; the Police Department has reviewed a concern as set forth in the report regarding utilization of a team approach and having an increased School Resource Officer presence in key areas such as the school cafeteria; the Police Department has established an internal committee to review the effectiveness of the School Resource Officer program, in addition to looking at equipment needs, training, job tasks, clarification of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Police Department, the School system and the Sheriff's Department; there has been a response to the concern of School Resource Officers that they are required to dispense too much time on clerical work which takes the officer away from the school campus, therefore, beginning with the 2004 school year, SROs will be provided with lap top in car computers; and before the beginning of the school year, a summit will be convened composed of representatives of the school administration, police personnel, principals, assistant principals, etc., to discuss findings of the Task Force report and to develop additional strategies on how to be more effective, involved and supportive.

Question was raised as to the strategy for moving forward from this point; whereupon, the Mayor advised that Council and the School Board will hold a joint meeting on Thursday, October 7, 2004, and by that time the two entities can begin to flag responsibilities on the City side and on the School side, meetings will continue to be held with the interim Superintendent, City Manager, and Chair of the School Board and the Council and the School Board will be provided with periodic updates. Prior to the joint meeting of Council and the School Board in October, he requested that the School Board provide Council with an update on what the School Board has done in terms of prioritizing recommendations of the Task Force.

Dr. Trinkle advised that the matter deserves a workshop by the School Board to prioritize recommendations of the Task Force.

Mr. Lindsey concurred in the remarks of Dr. Trinkle that a School Board workshop is in order and has proven to be an effective method in reaching consensus among the School Board in the past; the School Board must decide on what is the ideal classroom picture that it wishes to achieve for the students of Roanoke; the City of Roanoke has a diverse population and a need to incorporate the population early in the learning experience in order to develop tolerance, understanding and sensitivity, all of which appears to start at the elementary school level.

Mr. Nash spoke in support of engaging a consultant to prepare a professional analysis, and the work of the Task Force must be taken seriously in a three to four phase approach.

Mr. Penn advised that he is sensitive to the disclaimer of the Task Force in regard to the reliability of data; and one of the recommendations by the Task Force is to commit to a budget in order to assess progress, whereupon, he suggested that any surplus funds be committed to ensure receipt of the necessary data from parents, students and teachers which is an important component for moving forward with the recommendations. He concurred in the remarks of Mr. Nash regarding the need for a professional analysis by a consultant.

Ms. Stockburger advised that the Task Force has recommended a reframing of those issues that are thought of as school issues to the broader context of the community, and it is incumbent on the School Board, as it begins to look at the public realities aspect, to let the community ask not how the School Board can do a better job, but how the community can help the schools to do a better job.

Dr. Trinkle advised that the School Board is faced with many good opportunities and it is going to be a good year. He agreed with the Mayor that some of the recommendations of the Task Force are not budgetary in nature, and better use should be made of internet access leading to improved communications.

Mr. Sparrow advised that he supports the report of the Task Force and the School Board is looking forward to setting measurable benchmarks. He called attention to the importance of parental involvement and inquired, from the perspective of the Task Force, as to what can be done by the School Board to increase parental involvement.

Ms. Manns advised that the school system employs a Parent Coordinator; the school setting can be an intimidating place for some parents, and once parents enter the schools it is necessary to make them feel welcome.

An unidentified person spoke from the audience and advised that in distinguishing between various people in the community, the term "housing project" has been used, and cautioned that the term "housing project" is outdated. He stated that the meeting is being held at 9:00 a.m., in the morning at a time when the majority of those persons affected by the recommendations of the Task Force are on the job and cannot attend the meeting.

Barton Wilner spoke as a parent and as a representative of the business community, and advised that the City of Roanoke has an opportunity to make positive changes and to solve the problems in the school system; and the following actions should be implemented immediately:

(1) Enforce rules that are currently on the books.

(2) When those children who cause continuous problems are identified, they be placed in alternative education programs and removed from the main stream; diversity should be promoted; and people from other localities should be visiting the City of Roanoke not just to see places like Center in the Square, etc., but to observe Roanoke's school system first hand.

(3) School uniforms should be mandatory for all students in the City's school system. He stated that he has advised school leadership that if school uniforms are required at Patrick Henry High School, he would be willing to pay for the uniform for any student whose parent can prove that they cannot afford the expense; and all localities in the United States where school uniforms have been required have reported an improvement in education.

The Mayor advised that Council is scheduled to convene at 12:00 noon in Room 159, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, for a joint meeting with the City Planning Commission; therefore, time does not allow for meaningful dialogue on any of the remaining agenda items. He requested that the Chair of the School Board provide written responses to the following agenda items: health insurance stipend for retired teachers, consolidation of City/School purchasing, report from the November 21, 2003 Council/School Board retreat, discussion on ways to enhance Council/School Board relations, coaching vacancies at the high schools, status of high school tracks, and middle school interscholastic athletic programs.

He suggested that the information be provided to the City Manager's Office, or to the Mayor's Office, for dissemination to Council, and if Council Members have questions, they can be raised with the appropriate officials.

The City Manager advised that a summary of the Council/School Board retreat which was held on November 21, 2003, was distributed to Council and to the School Board.

There being no further business, at 11:30 a.m., the Mayor declared the Council meeting in recess until 12:00 noon in Room 159, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, Virginia, at which time Council will participate in a joint meeting of the Council and the City Planning Commission.

The meeting of the School Board was adjourned.

At 12:15 p.m., the Council meeting reconvened in Room 159, Emergency Operations Center Conference Room, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., Roanoke, Virginia, for a joint meeting of Council and the City Planning Commission.

PRESENT: Council Members M. Rupert Cutler, Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., Sherman P. Lea, Brian J. Wishneff and Mayor C. Nelson Harris----

ABSENT: None-----0.

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Gilbert E. Butler, Jr., D. Kent Chrisman, Paula L. Prince, Richard Rife, Henry Scholz, Fredrick Williams and Robert B. Manetta, Chair-----7.

ABSENT: None-----0.

OTHERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; Mary F. Parker, City Clerk; R. Brian Townsend, Director, Planning, Building and Development; Nancy Snodgrass, Zoning Administrator; Christopher L. Chittum, Senior City Planner; Stephanie M. Moon, Deputy City Clerk; and Martha P. Franklin, Secretary, City Planning Commission.

COUNCIL-COMMUNITY PLANNING-NEIGHBORHOOD PLANS:

Review of Vision 2001-2020 Implementation Annual Report:

Chris Chittum, Senior City Planner, Department of Planning, Building and Development, presented an annual update on Vision 2001-2020, the City's Comprehensive Plan. He advised that it was determined in 2001 that the Comprehensive Plan should include a chapter on implementation, monitoring and accountability; and one of the recommendations was to develop an annual report that detailed each action and accomplishments. He further advised that 85 per cent of the actions listed in the Plan have some activity toward implementation, and highlighted the following activities which have been undertaken over the past year:

Development of a new zoning ordinance

Adoption of the Urban Forestry Plan

Completion of the Mill Mountain Greenway

Completion of the Williamson Road Streetscape

Construction of the Bullitt Avenue and Jamison Avenue, S. E. traffic calming project

Grandin Road/Grandin Village Streetscape improvements

Establishment of the Western Virginia Water Authority and

Development of indicators for each neighborhood.

Neighborhood Planning Process Status Report.

Mr. Chittum advised that six neighborhood plans have been adopted by City Council; 17 Plans were completed which cover 27 of the City's neighborhoods and six Plans are in progress that cover 15 neighborhoods; and the following Plans will be presented to the Council for consideration at a later date: Williamson Road neighborhood, Riverland/Walnut Hill neighborhoods, and Villa Heights/Fairland Lakes neighborhoods. He further advised that the neighborhood plans can be viewed on-line at the City's website, www.roanokegov.com, and the website was redesigned to create a webpage for each neighborhood to be coordinated with neighborhood indicators and the City's new web portal.

Chairman Manetta inquired about steps to be taken following completion of the neighborhood plans; whereupon, Mr. Chittum stated that City staff plans to update older neighborhood plans, i.e., Southwest Roanoke and Greater Deyerle which were adopted in 1989 and 1990, respectively.

The City Manager explained that she has requested an implementation update on all neighborhood plans for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan in order to develop a matrix that identifies the different issues and needs for each neighborhood.

Mr. Williams called attention to a work session held by the City Planning Commission and American Electric Power with regard to concerns relating to underground utilities, especially in the village center locations, with the purpose of planting large trees and other plantings that will contribute to the environment.

Mr. Townsend stated that underground utilities will be a requirement in all new developments in village centers and will be included in the zoning ordinance update.

Chairman Manetta indicated that there is a program designed to regain the tree canopy and to promote preservation of trees in the City; and explained that there have been improvements toward maintenance of housing, which process will expand to other neighborhoods.

The City Manager advised that Council at its last retreat gave City staff a goal of demolishing approximately 50 abandoned homes per year, which goal was exceeded with the assistance of private property owners; and code enforcement efforts throughout the City have been enhanced by additional personnel, cross training of employees, and the ability to respond to citizen complaints throughout the City. She further advised that the major stumbling block with Code enforcement was not the number of staff or the response time to a complaint, but the lack of support from property owners and the court system.

Mr. Manetta stated that he was appreciative of the establishment of a regional park authority, and actions taken to provide additional recreational opportunities to promote physical fitness for Roanoke's youth population. He inquired about a trolley system primarily on South Jefferson Street, and commented on the budget trolley and light rail systems in Portland, Oregon, which are major economic development initiatives that enabled the City to encourage development in certain areas outside its region. He suggested that funds be budgeted to study the location of a trolley system in the City of Roanoke.

Mr. Manetta also called attention to the development of a streetscape design team, and suggested that the team brief the City Planning Commission and staff early in the process with regard to the "how's" "where's", and the underlying philosophy relative to the Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Prince added that one of the things the City could do to encourage physical fitness for youth, to help relieve traffic, and to add quality of life is to improve the City's bike lanes in order to make Roanoke a bicycle friendly city. She noted that the trolley and the light rail system in Portland, Oregon, allowed citizens to bicycle around town and have access to various destinations without getting back on their bicycles. She suggested that bike racks be made available throughout the City of Roanoke.

Ms. Burcham pointed out that several bicycle racks have been installed in the downtown Roanoke area, Valley Metro buses are equipped to transport bicycles, and a bicycle rack is located at the Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building. She stated that the City should promote bicycling and bicycle lanes.

With regard to streetscape designs, Mr. Williams suggested that there be more involvement between the City Planning Commission and the Street Design Team. He called attention to Item PSA15, page 27, Administration and Service Delivery, in terms of ensuring that all public schools and city-owned facilities are located, designed and maintained to compliment neighboring land uses, and advised that the Planning Commission should have an opportunity to review the designs of public facilities at an early stage in order to receive comments prior to finalizing any plans or actions.

Mr. Williams also called attention to a regional economic development action, Item EDA2, page 13, "Expand participation in regional economic development efforts; and continue meetings with elected officials and administrative staff in neighboring localities to discuss regional efforts," and suggested that the City be more proactive in economic development activities with Roanoke County. He pointed out that there is an underperforming, aging shopping mall within the City's boundaries, and suggested that Roanoke City and Roanoke County consider the coordination of efforts to institute some type of revenue sharing for a redeveloped shopping mall.

With respect to alternative forms of transportation, Mr. Williams commented that he bicycles on a regular basis and has found that the biggest obstacle is the lack of street trees; and suggested that the City not only plant trees for tree canopy cover, but to benefit bikers as well.

Council Member Cutler inquired as to whether a public art plan would be included in the City's Comprehensive Plan; whereupon, Ms. Burcham advised that the decision would have to be made by Council as to whether an art plan should be included in the Comprehensive Plan or adopted as a guide. Mr. Cutler compared the public art plan to the Urban Forestry Plan, and explained that he was seeking other opportunities to incorporate additional detailed language to the Comprehensive Plan, and suggested that stormwater management and public health also be included in the Comprehensive Plan.

With regard to neighborhood plans, Council Member Cutler indicated that the City has the authority to improve public infrastructures through public investments, curb and guttering, lights, airplanes, etc., and inquired as to whether the City offers incentives to homeowners, such as grants, to make repairs to their property; whereupon, Mr. Chittum pointed out that the Southeast by Design Program has influenced many businesses through the Façade Grant Program, and housing incentives connected with the program have created a considerable amount of business interest in the neighborhoods.

Ms. Burcham advised that development of the current housing strategy speaks to many of the issues referenced by Council Member Cutler, particularly the neighborhoods, and stated that the City currently has a Tax Abatement Program which is utilized by a small percentage of property owners to improve

and to upgrade their property; and the program is available to both residential and commercial owners, as well as to those in the Urban Enterprise Zone system. She stated that staff and the Director of Real Estate Valuation are reviewing modifications to the program and a report will be submitted to Council for consideration at a later date.

Council Member Cutler referenced Item ECA21, page 11, Environmental, Historic, and Cultural Resources, i.e.: Roanoke's Parks and Recreation Department will assume a primary land steward role for a major portion of the Carvins Cove Natural Reserve, effective July 1, 2004, and suggested that the Planning Department and the City Planning Commission interface with the Parks and Recreation Department, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and the Mill Mountain Advisory Committee to plan for the City's park system. He also suggested that the City coordinate its efforts with the Western Virginia Land Trust, Explore Park, and the Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission to capitalize on opportunities to bring tourism into the City from the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Council Member Dowe expressed appreciation to City Planning staff for its efforts regarding the preparation and adoption of the neighborhood plans, and mentioned specific feedback regarding the application of fees and rates at Carvins Cove as a result of enhanced efforts between the City of Roanoke and Roanoke County. He requested a meeting with the City Manager and the Director of Planning and Community Development to address the matter.

Council Member Wishneff inquired as to whether the neighborhood plans will prevent the conversion of single family residential homes to higher density use; whereupon, Mr. Chittum responded in the affirmative, and advised that the City attempts to have the higher density uses focused around the village centers.

Mr. Townsend advised that staff is using the neighborhood land use maps as a guide for future zoning throughout the entire City.

Council Member McDaniel stated that she served as Vice-Chair of the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee, and requested that copies of the implementation update be forwarded to committee members. Mr. Townsend also noted that the update is available on the City's website.

How to Arrest and Reverse Neighborhood Deterioration in Parts of the City.

The following suggestions were offered by the City Planning Commission in connection with arresting and reversing neighborhood deterioration in parts of the City:

Citizens need to set standards and maintain them;

- Minimize conflict between businesses and residents, and maximize harmony;
- Adequate school system; and
- Implementation of neighborhood design guidelines.

Need for Better Coordination Between Land Use and Transportation Planning.

Mr. Williams presented two articles which appeared in *The Richmond Times-Dispatch* with regard to a crisis in transportation funding in Richmond, Virginia.

(For full text, see articles on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Mr. Williams expressed concern with regard to a limited amount of funds provided by the Commonwealth of Virginia for infrastructure and transportation needs, and stated that the Department of Transportation expects to begin preliminary engineering on 29 projects in fiscal year 2004-05, and by 2010, preliminary engineering projects will have dropped to two due to a funding shortage. He further stated that transportation and land use are not linked in the State of Virginia because transportation planning is handled by State officials and land use planning development is addressed by local governments; and suggested that the City initiate discussion with regard to the relationship between transportation and land use planning.

CLOSING COMMENTS:

Mr. Rife advised that Rife and Associates, Inc., has been engaged as architect for the proposed William Fleming High School building project, and suggested that if Council and the School Board would like to explore the concept of a high school stadium on the proposed school site, discussions should be held no later than October 2004.

There being no further business, at 1:30 p.m., Chairman Manetta declared the meeting of the City Planning Commission adjourned.

COUNCIL-COMMITTEES: A communication from Mayor C. Nelson Harris requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss vacancies on certain authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Mr. Fitzpatrick moved that Council concur in the above described request of the Mayor. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

COUNCIL-SALE/PURCHASE OF PROPERTY: A communication from the City Manager requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss acquisition of real property for a public purpose, where discussion in open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the City, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(3), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Mr. Dowe moved that Council concur in the above described request of the City Manager. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fitzpatrick and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

At 1:35 p.m., the Mayor declared the Council meeting in recess to be reconvened at 2:00 p.m., in the City Council Chamber, fourth floor, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, City of Roanoke, Virginia.

The Council of the City of Roanoke held its Organizational Meeting on Tuesday, July 6, 2004, at 2:00 p. m., in the City Council Chamber, fourth floor, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, with Mayor C. Nelson Harris presiding, pursuant to Section 10, Meetings of Council, Charter of the City of Roanoke, at which time the newly elected Members of the Council will officially take their seats.

PRESENT: Council Members M. Rupert Cutler, Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., Sherman P. Lea, Brian J. Wishneff, and Mayor C. Nelson Harris--6.

ABSENT:-----0.

The Mayor declared the existence of a quorum.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

CITY COUNCIL: The Mayor advised that the purpose of the Organizational Meeting was for the newly elected Members of City Council to officially take their seats; whereupon, he called attention to a communication from the City Clerk advising of the following qualification:

C. Nelson Harris as Mayor for a term commencing July 1, 2004 and ending June 30, 2008;

Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., as a Member of Council for a term commencing July 1, 2004 and ending June 30, 2008; and as Vice-Mayor for a term commencing July 1, 2004 and ending June 30, 2006;

Sherman P. Lea as a Member of Council for a term commencing July 1, 2004 and ending June 30, 2008; and

Brian J. Wishneff as a Member of Council for a term commencing July 1, 2004 and ending June 30, 2008.

Mr. Dowe moved that the communication from the City Clerk be received and filed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lea and unanimously adopted.

CITY COUNCIL: Council Member Cutler offered the following resolution recognizing the Honorable Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., as a Member of Council and as Vice-Mayor of the City of Roanoke:

(#36760-070604) A RESOLUTION recognizing the Honorable Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., as a member of the City Council and Vice-Mayor of the City of Roanoke.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 69, page 1.)

Mr. Cutler moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36760-070604. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

CITY COUNCIL: The Mayor relinquished the Chair to the Vice-Mayor.

Council Member Cutler offered the following resolution recognizing the service of the Honorable C. Nelson Harris as Vice-Mayor of the City of Roanoke from July 1, 2002, until June 30, 2004:

(#36761-070604) A RESOLUTION recognizing the services of the Honorable C. Nelson Harris as Vice-Mayor of the City of Roanoke.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 69, page 1.)

Mr. Cutler moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36761-070604. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea and Wishneff-----5.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Mayor Harris abstained from voting.)

The Mayor took the Chair.

CITY COUNCIL: Council Member Dowe offered the following resolution establishing a meeting schedule for City Council for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2004, and ending June 30, 2005:

(#36762-070604) A RESOLUTION establishing a meeting schedule for City Council for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2004, and terminating June 30, 2005, and rescheduling one regular meeting to be held in the month of October 2004.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 69, page 2.)

Mr. Dowe moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36762-070604. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fitzpatrick and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

CITY COUNCIL-COMMITTEES: The Mayor presented a communication advising that based upon the response by Council Members to his previous communications, it is recommended that Council liaison relationships to the following committees or organizations be eliminated:

- Mill Mountain Advisory Committee
- Roanoke Arts Commission
- Roanoke Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau
- City of Roanoke Transportation Safety Commission
- Virginia Museum of Transportation
- War Memorial Committee
- Virginia CARES, Inc., Board of Directors
- TAP Board of Directors
- Mill Mountain Zoo

Roanoke Civic Center Commission
 Explore Park
 Downtown Roanoke, Inc., Board of Directors

The Mayor further recommended that Council Members be appointed as liaison to the following:

Roanoke Valley Regional Cable Television Committee - Council Member Sherman L. Lea
 Roanoke Valley-Allegheny Regional Commission - (Will be filled by the new member of Council to be appointed at a later time)
 Virginia's First Coalition of Cities - Vice-Mayor Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr.
 New River Valley Commerce Park Participation Committee - Council Member Brian J. Wishneff
 Virginia's First Regional Industrial Facility Authority - Council Member Brian J. Wishneff
 Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority- Vice-Mayor Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr.

Mayor Harris further recommended that the following Members of Council be appointed as Chairs of certain permanent committees:

Audit Committee	-	Council Member M. Rupert Cutler
Personnel Committee	-	Council Member Alfred T. Dowe, Jr.
Legislative Committee	-	Vice-Mayor Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr.

The Mayor advised that other Council liaison appointments will occur in the future for ad-hoc committees or special projects; whereupon, he recommended that appointments be made as necessary.

Mr. Fitzpatrick moved that Council concur in the above referenced recommendations of the Mayor. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lea and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

At 2:08 p. m., the Mayor declared the meeting in recess and advised that the regular meeting of Council will convene immediately following a special meeting of Council which will be held for the purpose of filling the unexpired term of C. Nelson Harris, Council Member, ending June 30, 2006.

The regular meeting of Roanoke City Council convened at 2:40 p.m., on Tuesday, July 6, 2004, in the City Council Chamber, fourth floor, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, with the following Council Members in attendance, Mayor Harris presiding.

PRESENT: Council Members M. Rupert Cutler, Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., Sherman P. Lea, Brenda L. McDaniel, Brian J. Wishneff and Mayor C. Nelson Harris-----7.

ABSENT: None-----0.

The Mayor declared the existence of a quorum.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

The reconvened meeting was opened with a prayer by Elder Sylvan A. Moyer, Pastor, Unlimited Power Apostolic Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor Harris.

PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

PROCLAMATIONS-PARKS AND RECREATION: The Mayor presented a Proclamation declaring July 2004 as Parks and Recreation Month to Steven C. Buschor, Director, Parks and Recreation.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Mayor advised that all matters listed under the Consent Agenda were considered to be routine by the Members of Council and would be enacted by one motion in the form, or forms, listed on the Consent Agenda, and if discussion was desired, that item would be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

MINUTES: Minutes of the regular meeting of Council held on Monday, May 3, 2004, recessed until Friday, May 7, 2004, and recessed until Monday, May 10, 2004, were before the body.

Mr. Dowe moved that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with and that the minutes be approved as recorded. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff
and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

ROANOKE CIVIC CENTER-COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT-CITY PROPERTY: A communication from the City Manager advising that Triton PCS Property Company, LLC, contacted City staff with regard to leasing City-owned property to locate a monopole antenna and support building; the antenna is needed to provide uninterrupted cellular telephone service in certain parts of the City; according to Triton, there is insufficient coverage in certain areas of the City, which leads to lost calls as cellular telephone users travel throughout the community; to alleviate the problem, Triton has proposed a five year lease of vacant land at the Roanoke Civic Center to install a new antenna at this strategic location for better service to its customers; estimated revenue for the five year lease agreement is \$9,725.00; and a public hearing is required to consider leasing land to Triton, was before Council.

The City Manager recommended that Council authorize a public hearing to be advertised for Monday, July 19, 2004, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.

Mr. Dowe moved that Council concur in the request of the City Manager. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff
and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

PENSIONS: The annual report of the Roanoke Pension Plan, Board of Trustees, for the period July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004, was before Council.

Mr. Dowe moved that the report be received and filed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff
and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-WATER RESOURCES: A report of qualification of George W. Logan as a member of the Board of Directors, Western Virginia Water Authority, for a term commencing March 2, 2004, and ending March 1, 2008, was before Council.

Mr. Dowe moved that the report of qualification be received and filed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

REGULAR AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

BUDGET-BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY: The following agenda item was sponsored by Council Member M. Rupert Cutler and Vice-Mayor Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr.

Dr. Susan Jackson Mills, Executive Director, FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway, Inc., requested that Council consider a regional approach to the Blue Ridge Parkway for economic development, spearhead a cooperative spirit between Roanoke County and the Town of Vinton to explore strategies that would improve the Parkway's benefits to travelers to the City and that the City of Roanoke recognize the benefits of protecting and preserving the Parkway viewshed and the economical impact of the views to increase visitation to the Roanoke section of the Parkway through financial support of FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway viewshed protection project.

She advised that FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway believes that a similar response by all localities is vital to preserve the Blue Ridge Parkway viewsheds, thus providing a positive economic impact for both Roanoke City and the Roanoke Valley; the City of Roanoke's economic benefits of the Parkway are in direct relationship to the ecological health of Parkway views; and if Parkway views are not preserved, visitors have little reason to visit the Parkway's Roanoke area, therefore, the focus of her request on behalf of FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway is to save the viewshed, to develop strategies to attract visitors, and for the City of Roanoke to benefit from the visitation.

Dr. Mills stated that for the following reasons, it is important for the City of Roanoke to consider the request:

Based upon the Blue Ridge Parkway Scenic Experience Project - Southwest Virginia Study of 2002, the average visitor to the area visits 2.25 times per year for 1.96 days and spends \$149.00 per day per visitor.

Visitation to North Carolina is far greater than the Virginia section of the 23.5 million visitors in 2003 that travel the parkway, greater numbers of visitors are choosing to visit the North Carolina side (252 miles) of the Parkway due to commercials and residential development along Virginia's 217 miles.

Between 1982 and 1992, the Roanoke Valley lost 8,550 acres in farmland; the "Last Chance" designation represents a call to action to preserve this threatened landscape in the area.

Of the 28 miles of the Blue Ridge Parkway designated as "Last Chance Landscape" by Scenic America, 42 view areas were identified (1998) as scenic quality views; of these, 13 were rated as having little scenic quality remaining and 20 only moderate quality remaining (only 9 views continue to exhibit the high quality views); and without the protection of the Parkway views in Virginia, an increasing number of Parkway visitors will begin and end their Parkway experiences in North Carolina.

Economic studies show that the Blue Ridge Parkway brings billions of dollars annually to local economies, but the money is not spread evenly along the 469 mile route; the most recent study showed that for every parkway-related dollar that fueled local economies in Virginia, \$5 poured into North Carolina communities; and although the Parkway has a growing number of visitors, more than 23 million last year, North Carolina has experienced faster growth.

Dr. Mills advised that in spearheading the regional approach, the City of Roanoke is requested to provide grant services to help fund the initiative, budget \$15,000.00 over the next two years to match Roanoke County's support, or spearhead the community-based volunteer effort behind the plantings for the next three years and provide grant writing support.

Without objection by Council, the Mayor advised that the request will be referred to the City Manager for report and recommendation to Council.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

CITY MANAGER:

BRIEFINGS: (The Mayor advised that the briefing by the Virginia Department of Transportation will be held at the end of the meeting.)

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

HOUSING/AUTHORITY-GRANTS: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that for more than 25 years, Community Housing Partners Corporation (CHPC) has successfully conducted housing programs in various localities across the Commonwealth of Virginia; in 2002, CHPC was recognized as the "Best Housing Agency" in the state by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development; on May 13, 2004, Council authorized CHPC's first housing activities in the Roanoke community, pursuant to Resolution No. 36695-051304, which approved the City's 2004-2005 Annual Update to the Consolidated Plan for submission to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Council accepted 2004-2005 CDBG and HOME funds on June 21, 2004, pursuant to Budget Ordinance No. 36719-062104 and Resolution No. 36720-062104, pending receipt of an approval letter from HUD; and the letter will be issued when Congress completes its routine release process which is now underway.

It was further advised that in order for CHPC to conduct its approved 2004-2005 housing activities, authorization by Council is needed to execute a subgrant agreement; CDBG and HOME funding is available in accounts listed in a draft Agreement attached to the report; and a total of \$215,000.00 is being provided to CHPC to rehabilitate and sell eight homes in the Hurt Park/West End area.

The City Manager recommended that she be authorized to execute the 2004-2005 CDBG/HOME Subgrant Agreement with Community Housing Partners Corporation, to be approved as to form by the City Attorney.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick offered the following resolution:

(#36764-070604) A RESOLUTION authorizing the City Manager to enter into the 2004-2005 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME-funded Subgrant Agreement with the Community Housing Partners Corporation, upon certain terms and conditions

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 69, page 5.)

Mr. Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36764-070604. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wishneff and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Dowe, Fitzpatrick, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----5.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Members Cutler and Lea were not in the Council Chamber when the vote was recorded.)

BUDGET-GRANTS-SCHOOLS: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the City of Roanoke continues to provide for the nutritional needs of children and youth during the summer months through its Parks and Recreation Youth Services Division supervised Summer Nutrition Program; breakfast and lunch are provided to children throughout the City from mid-June through early-August; more than 2,600 children/youth received lunch and/or breakfast on a daily basis at 19 sites during the summer of 2003; in 2004, four sites were added with two other sites pending, and snacks will be offered during two special after-summer-school programs that will operate until 5:30 p.m.; local funds, in the amount of \$40,000.00, have been appropriated in the fiscal year 2004-2005 General Fund budget in the Parks and Recreation Youth Services Division budget, Account No. 001-620-8170-2034 (Special Projects); and local funds will be used to provide staffing and program materials.

It was further advised that funds for the program are provided through the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service; the program is similar in concept to the National School Lunch Program with eligibility requirements much like those used to determine eligibility for free or reduced priced meals during the school year; the purpose of the program is to provide nutritionally balanced, healthy meals to children, ages one through eighteen, and for those with special needs; adult, summer staff manage the program and youth are hired to assist at food service sites; and the City is reimbursed on a per meal basis.

The City Manager recommended that Council:

Accept the Summer Food Program grant, in the amount of \$143,315.00, and authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to execute and attest respectively, an agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services and any other forms necessary to accept such grant, approved as to form by the City Attorney.

Establish a revenue estimate, in the amount of \$183,315.00, and appropriate funding to expenditure accounts as outlined in the program budget in accounts to be established by the Director of Finance in the Grant Fund.

Transfer \$40,000.00 from fiscal year Account No. 001-620-8170-2034 (Special Projects) in the Parks and Recreation Youth Services Division budget to the Grant Fund, and appropriate funds in the Grant Fund as more fully described in an attachment to the report.

Council Member Dowe offered the following budget ordinance:

(#36765-070604) AN ORDINANCE appropriating funds for certain sections of the Summer Food Program, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2004-2005 General and Grant Funds Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book. No. 69, page 6.)

Mr. Dowe moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36765-070604. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fitzpatrick and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Dowe, Fitzpatrick, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----5.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Members Cutler and Lea were not in the Council Chamber when the vote was recorded.)

Council Member Dowe offered the following resolution:

(#36766-070604) A RESOLUTION authorizing acceptance of a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service on behalf of the City to provide nutritionally balanced, healthy meals for children and youth during the summer months, and authorizing execution of any and all necessary documents to comply with the terms and conditions of the grant and applicable laws, regulations, and requirements pertaining thereto.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 69, page 7.)

Mr. Dowe moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36766-070604. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fitzpatrick and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Dowe, Fitzpatrick, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----5.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Members Cutler and Lea were not in the Council Chamber when the vote was recorded.)

BUDGET-FIRE DEPARTMENT-GRANTS: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the Fire Programs Fund was established by the General Assembly, effective October 4, 1985, pursuant to Section 38.1-44.1 Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended; the sunset clause requiring expiration of the Fund on July 1, 1990 was removed, thus, the City's annual allocation of State funds will continue indefinitely; program guidelines require that funds received

are non-supplanting and may not be used to replace existing local funding; and all program funds must be used in accordance with provisions established by the State Department of Fire Programs.

It was further advised that in January 2003, the City of Roanoke's allocation of \$127,202.00 was deposited into Account No. 035-520-3232-3232 from the Department of Fire Programs; at the beginning of fiscal year 2004, due to the Commonwealth's on-going fiscal concerns, there was creditable probability that additional monies, beyond the amount already tendered for fiscal year 2004, would later need to be transferred from the "Fire Programs Fund" to the State's "General Fund"; therefore, those jurisdictions that normally would have received a fiscal year 2004 entitlement based on their population were frozen.

The City Manager advised that such probability did not materialize and the Department of Fire Programs made supplemental payments to all such affected jurisdictions, including the City of Roanoke; the supplemental amount of \$14,416.00, in addition to the \$127,202.00 received in January 2003, is the City's appropriate fiscal year 2004 entitlement of \$141,618.00; and action by Council is needed to formally accept and appropriate funds, as well as authorize the Director of Finance to establish revenue estimates in appropriate accounts in accordance with provisions of the program.

The City Manager recommended that she be authorized to accept the Fire Programs Funds Grant, to execute, accept and file any documents setting forth conditions of the grant and to furnish such additional information as may be required; and that Council appropriate grant funds in the amount of \$14,416.00, with a corresponding revenue estimate, in accounts to be established by the Director of Finance in the Grant Fund.

Council Member Dowe offered the following budget ordinance:

(#36767-070604) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate funding for additional Fire Program Grant funds, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2004-2005 Grant Fund Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 69, page 8.)

Mr. Dowe moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36767-070604. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fitzpatrick and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Lea was not in the Council Chamber when the vote was recorded.)

Mr. Dowe offered the following resolution:

(#36768-070604) A RESOLUTION authorizing the acceptance of additional FY2004 Fire Programs Grant Funds made available to the City of Roanoke by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs and authorizing the execution and filing by the City Manager of the conditions of the grant and other grant documents.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 69, page 8.)

Mr. Dowe moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36768-070604. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fitzpatrick and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Lea was not in the Council Chamber when the vote was recorded.)

BRIDGES: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the 1978 Surface Transportation Act enacted by Congress requires that all bridges, including "off Federal Aid System" structures, must be included in the annual inspection program; bridge inspection reports are required on 69 structures in the City of Roanoke this year; 26 structures are inspected annually, while 43 structures are inspected bi-annually; one tunnel (underpass) also needs to be inspected; Council awarded contracts on June 17, 2002, to Hayes, Seay, Mattern & Mattern, Inc., and Mattern & Craig, Inc., for the three year Bridge Inspection Program, with years two and three to be negotiated based on the number of structures to be inspected in each of the subsequent years; Hayes, Seay, Mattern & Mattern, Inc., has agreed to inspect 36 bridges at a cost of \$83,100.00 for year three; Mattern & Craig, Inc., has agreed to inspect 33 bridges, one tunnel (underpass), and 14 overhead signs at a cost of \$72,400.00 for year three; and funding in the amount of \$155,500.00 is available in Account No. 001-530-4310-3072 (Bridge Inspections).

The City Manager recommended that she be authorized to execute Amendment No. 2 for consulting services for the above work with Hayes, Seay, Mattern & Mattern, Inc., and Amendment No. 2 with Mattern & Craig, Inc., in the amounts of \$83,100.00 and \$72,400.00 respectively, for the third year (2004) for bridge, tunnel, and overhead sign inspection services.

Council Member Dowe offered the following resolution:

(#36769-070604) A RESOLUTION authorizing the City Manager's issuance of Amendment No. 2 to the City's contract with Hayes, Seay, Mattern & Mattern, Inc., for additional engineering services for the inspections of 36 bridges.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 69, page 9.)

Mr. Dowe moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36769-070604. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fitzpatrick and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Lea was not in the Council Chamber when the vote was recorded.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick offered the following resolution:

(#36770-070604) A RESOLUTION authorizing the City Manager's issuance of Amendment No. 2 to the City's contract with Mattern & Craig, Inc., for additional engineering services for the inspection of 33 bridges, one tunnel (underpass), and 14 overhead signs.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 69, page 10.)

Mr. Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36770-070604. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Lea was not in the Council Chamber when the vote was recorded.)

DONATIONS/CONTRIBUTIONS-GREENWAY SYSTEM: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the Lick Run Greenway Phase II Project consists of approximately 1.76 miles of greenway trail and associated appurtenances beginning with a connection to the Phase I greenway at Court Street and continuing to Wells Avenue; a majority of the trail is located adjacent to Lick Run; the Engineering Division is finalizing plans and specifications for the project in anticipation of bidding the project this summer; all properties have been acquired for the project, with the exception of properties owned by W. S. Connelly and Co., Inc. (Official Tax Nos. 2022205 and 3022820), which properties are located in the Gainsboro Neighborhood on Sydnor Circle adjacent to the Holiday Inn Express on Orange Avenue; the property owner, W. S. Connelly and Co., Inc., is prepared to donate land rights necessary for the proposed greenway project; however, W. S. Connelly and Co., Inc., wishes to be indemnified as provided by the Virginia Code Annotated §29.1-509 Section E.

The City Manager recommended that she be authorized to acquire the above described property rights.

Council Member Cutler offered the following resolution:

(#36771-070604) A RESOLUTION authorizing the City to indemnify and hold harmless W. S. Connelly and Company, Inc., as a condition of the donation by W. S. Connelly and Company, Inc., of certain easements across Official Tax Nos. 2022205 and 3022820, necessary for the completion of the Lick Run Greenway Phase II Project, and authorizing the execution of the necessary documents.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 69, page 11.)

Mr. Cutler moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36771-070604. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Lea was not in the Council Chamber when the vote was recorded.)

BUDGET-ROANOKE CIVIC CENTER: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the Roanoke Civic Center opened in March, 1971; the two main facilities included the Coliseum and the Auditorium; when the Civic Center was built, continental seating for Auditoriums was at the height of fashion, and ADA compliance was not an issue; and many things have changed in

public assembly facilities inasmuch as newer facilities provide cross, center, and side aisles with handicap accessibility.

It was further advised that in order to bring Auditorium seating up to date, new chairs are needed; chairs should be replaced because they are worn and replacement parts are difficult to find; also, handicap access would be greatly improved with a new configuration; during fiscal year 2003-2004, \$146,000.00 was appropriated from retained earnings for seat refurbishment; and if seats are refurbished only, the estimated cost would be as much or more than replacement and there would still be no center, side, or cross aisles.

It was explained that new chairs and aisles would provide better wheel chair access, arm lifts for patrons that have limited mobility, and some would be removable for special purposes; bids for seat replacement were received on July 2, 2004, and the low bid was submitted by Irwin Seating Company in the amount of \$307,568.00; total funding, in the amount of \$338,324.00, is required and includes a ten per cent contingency; beyond the amount originally appropriated, additional funding, in the amount of \$192,324.00, is needed to fund the entire amount; and new seats would greatly improve the appearance of the Auditorium and provide quality seating for all patrons, including Symphony and Broadway Series season ticket holders.

The City Manager recommended that Council appropriate funds, in the amount of \$150,000.00, from Civic Facilities Fund Retained Earnings and transfer \$42,324.00 from Capital Project Contingency (001-300-9410-2280) to Civic Facilities Seat Refurbishment Project (005-550-8623).

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick offered the following budget ordinance:

(#36772-070604) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate funding to the Civic Facilities Seat Refurbishment Project, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2004-2005 General and Civic Facilities Funds Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 69, page 12.)

Mr. Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36772-070604. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Lea was not in the Council Chamber when the vote was recorded.)

VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the Virginia Museum of Transportation, Inc., has requested the lease of the 611 and 1218 locomotives from the City of Roanoke for a period of 20 years; consideration for the lease shall be a nominal annual payment of \$1.00 by the Museum to the City; and the lease would be renewable at the end of the 20 year term, with the City to assume full control over the locomotives should the Museum cease to operate for any reason; and the Transportation Museum would also fully insure the locomotives and keep the locomotives in top restored condition.

It was further advised that the Executive Director of the Transportation Museum believes that the long term lease is necessary in order to make funding appeals to individuals, corporations and foundations; sponsors and grantors need to be guaranteed that the locomotives are displayed in a stable situation for the duration of an exhibition, as well as possible extension or renewal of the exhibition; a lease has been prepared between the Virginia Museum of Transportation and the City of Roanoke and a letter has been sent to the Shenandoah Virginia Corporation (a subsidiary of the Norfolk Southern Corporation) requesting its consent to terms of the lease; and lease of the 1218 locomotive is subject to approval by the Shenandoah Virginia Corporation.

The City Manager recommended that she be authorized to execute a lease with the Virginia Museum of Transportation, Inc., to be approved as to form by the City Attorney.

The City Attorney advised that legal counsel for Norfolk Southern indicates that the Shenandoah Virginia Corporation, which donated the 1218 to the City of Roanoke, is in agreement with the lease.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick offered the following ordinance:

(#36773-070604) AN ORDINANCE authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease between the City and the Virginia Museum of Transportation, Inc., for the lease of two steam locomotives, known as the 611 and 1218, currently housed at the Virginia Museum of Transportation, upon certain terms and conditions, and dispensing with the record reading of this ordinance by title.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 69, page 13.)

Mr. Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36773-070604. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wishneff.

Council Member Dowe advised that he serves on the Board of Directors of the Virginia Museum of Transportation and the Western Virginia Foundation for the Arts and Sciences, in which capacities he receives no remuneration. He inquired if he should abstain from voting on the ordinance.

The City Attorney advised that Mr. Dowe may vote on the ordinance inasmuch as he is not a paid Director of the two organizations.

Ordinance No. 36773-070604 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Lea was not in the Council Chamber when the vote was recorded.)

BUDGET-ROANOKE ARTS COMMISSION: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that on February 17, 2004, Council requested additional information from the City administration on a request from the Roanoke Arts Commission for funds to engage a consultant in developing and implementing a Public Art Master Plan; staff has reviewed the Arts Commission's materials and the draft request for proposals, and can support a \$50,000.00 allocation to prepare the Plan.

The City Manager recommended that Council authorize transfer of \$50,000.00 from Capital Project Contingency Account No. 001-300-9410-2280, to the Roanoke Arts Commission Account No. 001-300-7220-3754, for the purpose of preparation of the public Art Master Plan.

Mr. Cutler offered the following budget ordinance:

(#36774-070604) AN ORDINANCE to authorize transfer of funds for Public Arts Master Plan, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2004-2005 General Fund Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 69, page 14.)

Mr. Cutler moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36774-070604. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Dowe was not in the Council Chamber when the vote was recorded.)

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE:

AUDITS/FINANCIAL REPORTS: The Director of Finance submitted the Financial Report for the month of May 2004.

There being no questions, without objection by Council, the Mayor advised that the Financial Report for the month of May would be received and filed.

CITY CODE-TAXES-LICENSES: The Director of Finance submitted a written report advising that pursuant to changes made to State law in 2002, localities were given the authority to deny certain permits to taxpayers if the taxpayer was delinquent in the payment of local real estate taxes; accordingly, Section 32-7 of the City Code was enacted to provide that the City shall deny a request made by a taxpayer for a special exception, a variance, a rezoning or a building permit if such taxpayer was delinquent in the payment of real estate taxes; and Section 19-1.2(b) of the City Code, already in effect in 2002, provides that a taxpayer delinquent in the payment of business license, personal property, meals, transient occupancy or admissions taxes may be denied a business license for that reason.

It was further advised that during the last session, the General Assembly enacted a law limiting a locality's authority to deny a taxpayer's application for certain permits and licenses under certain circumstances; and effective July 1, 2004, Section 58.1-3994 of the Code of Virginia (1950) as amended, goes into effect which provides that a locality shall not refuse to issue any permit or license to a taxpayer if the sole basis for denial of such permit or license is the taxpayer's failure to pay taxes, penalties or interest and such taxpayer has pending a bona fide application or appeal to the locality with respect to such taxes, penalties or interest.

The Director of Finance recommended that Council authorize amendments to Sections 32-7 and 19-1.2(b) of the City Code to bring said sections into compliance with Section 58.1-3994 of the State Code.

Mr. Dowe offered the following ordinance:

(#36775-070604) AN ORDINANCE amending §32-7, Delinquent real estate taxes, of Article II, Real Estate Taxes Generally, of Chapter 32, Taxation, and §19-1.2(b), License required; requiring evidence of payment of business license, business personal property, meals and admissions taxes, of Article II, In General, of Chapter 19, License Tax Code, of the Code of the City of Roanoke (1979) as amended, by including certain limitations required by state law on the City's authority to deny an application for a special exception, variance, rezoning, or certain permits and business licenses respectively, on the basis that delinquent taxes are owed the City; and dispensing with the second reading of this ordinance by title.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 69, page 15.)

Mr. Dowe moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36775-070604. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick was not in the Council Chamber when the vote was recorded.)

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: None.

MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

INQUIRIES AND/OR COMMENTS BY THE MAYOR, VICE-MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL:

STADIUM-COUNCIL: Council Member Wishneff requested that Council engage in a work session on Monday, July 19, 2004, at 12:00 noon to discuss the process for moving forward on the Victory Stadium issue.

Without objection by Council, the Mayor advised that he would work with the City Manager and the City Clerk to schedule the work session.

BUDGET-LEGISLATION: Council Member Wishneff spoke in regard to a formal method of recognizing funding by citizens and local government for arts and cultural organizations; i.e.: a regionalized State entity, with funding to channel through the regional entity as a formal line item in the State's budget; and, in exchange, citizens and local government would be required to provide matching funds.

He requested that the City Attorney draft the appropriate language to be forwarded to the Council's Legislative Committee for consideration.

Without objection by Council, the Mayor advised that the matter would be referred to the Legislative Committee.

Council Member Cutler concurred in the remarks of Mr. Wishneff and advised that he has been a long time advocate of a regional entity to speak on behalf of all art museums that qualify for inclusion in the Governor's budget.

ZONING-LIBRARIES: Council Member Cutler congratulated Nancy Snodgrass who was promoted to the position of Zoning Administrator, and Sheila Umbarger who will serve as Acting Director of Libraries.

COUNCIL: Mayor Harris welcomed Council Members McDaniel, Lea and Wishneff.

HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS: The Mayor advised that Council sets this time as a priority for citizens to be heard and matters requiring referral to the City Manager will be referred immediately for any necessary and appropriate response, recommendation or report to Council.

ELECTIONS-ACTS OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT-STADIUM-COUNCIL: Mr. William J. Bryant, 124 Fleming Avenue, N. E., spoke in support of renovation of Victory Stadium. He advised that he strongly supports Roanoke's history through the preservation of historic buildings and facilities; the City of Roanoke should not compete with larger cities across the country, but remain stabilized and serve the citizens of Roanoke by letting their voices be heard; and the citizens of Roanoke should have a voice in electing Council members to fill unexpired terms of office on the Council. He called attention to potential problems relative to the new electronic voting machines which are proposed to be used during the November 2004 Presidential Election and the reluctance by some citizens to use the new equipment. He commended former Mayor Ralph K. Smith for his service to the City of Roanoke over the past four years.

BRIDGES-COUNCIL: Ms. Helen E. Davis, 35 Patton Avenue, N. E., expressed appreciation to former Mayor Ralph K. Smith for his service to the citizens of Roanoke. She expressed concern in regard to Council briefings which are held in the Council's Conference Room and are not televised on RVTv Channel 3 for viewing by the general public; and referred specifically to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Bridge briefing on June 21 which was held in the Council's Conference Room and was not televised. She requested that any future briefings on the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Bridge project be conducted in a setting that allows for the proceedings to be televised by RVTv Channel 3.

COMPLAINTS: Mr. Robert Gravely, 729 Loudon Avenue, N. W., advised that the average person living in the City of Roanoke cannot afford to purchase a house; the City should offer incentives to keep citizens in Roanoke; the wishes of citizens should be acknowledged by Council; there is a need for honest and open government; there is a need for better maintenance of the City's streets and

infrastructure; persons should be hired in key City management positions who will work with the citizens; and there should be greater recognition of the City's work force.

STADIUM-COUNCIL: Mr. Adrian Lewis, 2538 Belle Avenue, N. E., requested that Council, as elected officials, maintain open dialogue with the citizens of the City of Roanoke. He spoke in opposition to the renovation of Victory Stadium which is located in the flood plain and lacks sufficient parking due to the location of the Bio Medical Institute. He questioned the need for a 20,000+ seat venue (Victory Stadium).

COUNCIL: Ms. Evelyn D. Bethel, 35 Patton Avenue, N. E., spoke in support of open communication between City Council and the citizens of the City of Roanoke. She asked that Council work with citizens from the bottom up, instead of from the top down, beginning with Roanoke's students and schools which are the backbone of the City. She asked that the comments of citizens be taken into consideration and that Council take the time to publicly communicate with citizens, as opposed to engaging in one-on-one dialogue.

STADIUM-COUNCIL: The Reverend John Kepley, 2909 Morrison Street, S. E., congratulated the three new Members of Council and the Mayor, and advised that citizens will be working for a new day of peace, prosperity and advancement for the City of Roanoke. He called attention to the successful Fourth of July celebration at Victory Stadium which was attended by over 20,000 persons, and asked that Council Members keep their campaign pledges to the citizens of Roanoke who voted for them on the basis that they will restore this memorable and valuable City landmark.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

CELEBRATIONS-WATER RESOURCES: The City Manager called attention to activities that occurred in the City of Roanoke over the Fourth of July weekend; i.e.: the Jehovah's Witness Convention at the Roanoke Civic Center which attracted over 6000 participants, the Fourth of July Music for Americans celebration at Victory Stadium, and the Motor Madness program on the City Market. She advised that July 1, 2004, will be remembered in the history of the City of Roanoke and the region as the day that the Western Virginia Water Authority took over water and waste water operations in the Roanoke Valley, which represents a significant beginning along the path of additional regional ventures.

At 4:25 p. m., the Mayor declared the Council meeting in recess to be reconvened in Room 159 for an update by representatives of the Virginia Department of Transportation.

The Council meeting reconvened at 4:30 p. m., in Room 159, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, for a briefing by representatives of the Virginia Department of Transportation, with all Members of the Council in attendance, Mayor Harris presiding.

STATE HIGHWAYS-TRAFFIC: The City Manager recognized representatives of the Virginia Department of Transportation, and called upon Kenneth H. King, Jr., Transportation Division Manager, for an overview of the briefing; i.e.:

- Introduction of Dana Martin, Commonwealth Transportation Board Member; and Richard Caywood, District Administrator, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- Proposed routing of I-73, recent changes from Southeast to following the US 220 Corridor
- I-581/US 220 Corridor Study called for by the previous Council
- Mike Gray, representative of VDOT

Dana Martin, Member of the Commonwealth Transportation Board, introduced Richard Caywood, District Administrator, Virginia Department of Transportation, who stated that his role is to listen to citizens in the different localities to ascertain what they would like to see included in the highway project within budgetary constraints; VDOT adheres to a set of policies throughout the state and reviews all available options for various projects; and the Roanoke geographic area contains multi-mobilism options (alternate uses of transportation, particularly rail).

Mr. Caywood introduced Rob Cary, District Location and Design Engineer for the Salem District, VDOT, for an update on the I-73 project.

Mr. Cary referred to a handout regarding proposed changes to the I-73 route due to recent designation of the southeast Roanoke neighborhood as a Historic District. He explained the following:

- The red alternative on the I-73 plan was developed from citizen comments in 2001, but could not be utilized because of the historic district designation.
- The blue alternative on the I-73 plan modifies only a 12-mile section of the route in southeast Roanoke, Roanoke County and northern Franklin County.
- The option being considered for re-routing I-73 uses existing Route 220 from Elm Avenue, continues south into the Clearbrook area of Roanoke County, veers southeast of Buck Mountain along Route 657 (Crowell Gap Road) into Franklin County and rejoins the original corridor plan.

He stated that the proposed schedule is to present the alternative to the Commonwealth Transportation Board on July 15, 2004, for review and approval; upon approval, the Final Environmental Impact Statement will be completed on the selected corridor (from I-81 down to North Carolina) by September 2004 and will be sent to the Federal Highway Administration for evaluation, approval and issuance of a Record of Decision in early 2005, which will allow allocation of funds and moving the project to the design stage.

Mr. Cary called for questions regarding the proposal for I-73.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that a citizen previously expressed concern about whether any of the Old Southwest Historic District will be involved in the project; and he could not tell where the Route 220 interchanges will be that will allow access to Wal-Mart and Buck Mountain Road.

Mr. Cary stated that there will be an interchange for Route 419, the other interchange will be at Buck Mountain Road, there will not be an interchange with the Parkway, but a transitional area for Parkway access, and the actual type of interchange has not been detailed.

Council Member Wishneff requested clarification regarding the process of approving the change in the corridor route and Mr. Cary reiterated that the Commonwealth Transportation Board will have to rescind the corridor that was approved, approve the new corridor, and then finalize the Environmental Impact Statement, and the National Park Service will be included to work through some parts prior to finalizing the Environmental Impact Statement.

Mr. Wishneff requested that Mr. Cary review a previous map and the I-581 corridor area lane changes at the Valley View Mall interchange.

The City Manager advised that several years ago, Council and other local governing bodies were afforded an opportunity to provide comments and to identify which route each supported; City Council opposed the one route through the City of Roanoke; VDOT is preparing to move forward with this change based upon the historic designation of the southeast neighborhood and will not invite comments from local jurisdictions at this time, but believes that it is important to provide information to Council on the alignment of the route throughout the City, given the fact that public meetings were held on June 1 and 2. She further advised that the bulk of the route will use existing right-of-way already acquired by VDOT, as it relates to I-581 and Route 220, and the more dramatic impacts will occur at the south end of the City and into Roanoke County on Route 220.

Mr. Cary stated that the purpose of the Environmental Impact Statement is not to determine the final right-of-way locations; the Federal Highway Administration requires the same shoulder width on the medium barrier as on the outside of the lanes where there are three lanes in either direction, and the

key is to have eight feet for the shoulder on either side. He further stated that most of the change will take place at the interchanges; some areas will need to be reworked for future traffic, such as the area between Orange Avenue and Elm Avenue because recent traffic counts reflect that approximately 100,000 vehicles pass through the area per day.

The City Manager noted that the third portion of the study reflects that VDOT is willing to participate with the City in regard to all three critical interchanges, well in advance of any I-73 effort.

Mr. Cary reiterated that once a final decision is made to proceed with the revised corridor, the next step will be to start the preliminary hearing work, to prepare detailed surveys and design work, which will afford an opportunity for more citizen input at additional public hearings.

Council Member Wishneff voiced concern over the environmental impact of increased traffic; whereupon, the City Manager replied that the impact effort the City is making will keep the City under the threshold by the required year.

Council member Cutler stated that the Environmental Impact Statement on the project suggested that the flow of traffic with less idling will improve air quality.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick agreed and advised that most air pollution comes from road traffic, not interstates, and if the City does not succeed in its early intervention plan for air pollution, VDOT may need to deal with the issue.

Mr. King was requested to speak to the study of interchanges since they have a more immediate impact on the community; whereupon, he advised that it was known over a year ago that I-73 would pass through the interchange with Elm Avenue, which is a source of congestion, and access was a key issue of discussion concerning the Biomedical Institute. He stated that a number of reviews and studies were prepared by consultants and VDOT concerning the two areas, and consideration of modifications to the Franklin Road partial interchange by making it a full interchange were reviewed. He further stated that VDOT envisioned improvements to Wonju Street as a connection to provide access to the Biomedical area and as an extension of the downtown area; Elm Avenue is the heart of the area and improvements should be made as well as focusing on what could be done in the interim for the current situation. With that in mind, he stated that Council appropriated \$100,000.00 to a capital account and now is the time to study what the Elm Avenue interchange might look like with improvements to Wonju Street and Orange Avenue, which would be a significant cooperative study with VDOT. He introduced Mike Gray, representing VDOT.

Mr. Gray explained that a study team was created consisting of representatives from the City, VDOT and the regional commission to study interchange areas; the team put together a request for proposals which will soon be released to the public; and approximately \$300,000.00 in State and Federal funding has been approved. He stated that it would be in the best interests of both the City and VDOT to make improvements to the interchanges.

Mr. King advised that the City is a partner in the study and will have direct involvement in the process, and funds have already been used to collect traffic data for the first part of the study in advance.

Mayor Harris inquired about the status of the maintenance program relative to upgrading the appearance of I-581, as opposed to reconfiguration of I-581. Mr. Gray replied that maintenance is a part of the issue; a study has been completed of interchange duplication which is similar to the study that was done by the City of Lynchburg some time ago; VDOT has a viable plan to work with, but the challenge is in determining what type of funding can be used and whether funding can be used for the maintenance program; and he will work with City staff to identify specific deliverables out of smaller amounts of ordinary maintenance program funding to make the area look better.

The City Manager advised that certain businesses in the past have expressed a willingness to support financially the beautification of the areas in question, it would be beneficial to know as soon as possible that any problems envisioned by VDOT with the Lynchburg advertising model have been resolved so that the City could encourage local businesses to participate, realizing that once the changes are made, someone will be responsible for maintenance.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick suggested that VDOT let the City know what can be done as soon as possible so that business partners and citizens may participate.

Mayor Harris expressed appreciation to VDOT officials and to City staff for an informative briefing.

At 5:30 p. m., the Mayor declared the meeting in recess and Council convened in closed session in the Council's Conference Room, Room 451, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building.

At 5:40 p. m., the Council meeting reconvened in the Council Chamber, with all Members of the Council in attendance, Mayor Harris presiding.

COUNCIL: With respect to the Closed Meeting just concluded, Mr. Dowe moved that each Member of City Council certify to the best of his or her knowledge that: (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in any motion by which any

Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered by City Council. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-YOUTH: The Mayor advised that the terms of office of Sharon Hicks and Wendi Wagner as members of the Youth Services Citizen Board expired on May 31, 2004; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancies.

Mr. Cutler placed in nomination the names of Sharon Hicks and Wendi Wagner.

There being no further nominations, Ms. Hicks and Ms. Wagner were reappointed as members of the Youth Services Citizen Board, for terms ending May 31, 2007, by the following vote:

FOR MS. HICKS AND MS. WAGNER: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----7.

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-PENSIONS: The Mayor advised that the terms of office of Donna Johnson, Michael W. Hanks and Cyril J. Goens as members of the Board of Trustees, City of Roanoke Pension Plan, expired on June 30, 2004; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancies.

Mr. Cutler placed in nomination the names of Donna Johnson, Michael W. Hanks and Anthony Wallace.

There being no further nominations, Ms. Johnson was reappointed for a term ending June 30, 2008, Mr. Hanks was reappointed for a term ending June 30, 2006, and Mr. Wallace was appointed for a term ending June 30, 2006, as members of the Board of Trustees, City of Roanoke Pension Plan, by the following vote:

FOR MS. JOHNSON, MR. HANKS AND MR. WALLACE: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----7.

Inasmuch as Messrs. Hanks and Wallace are not residents of the City of Roanoke, Mr. Cutler moved that the City residency requirement be waived. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dowe and unanimously adopted.

OATHS OF OFFICE – COMMITTEES – PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT – GREENWAY SYSTEM – ROANOKE ARTS COMMISSION – LIBRARIES – CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU – FIRE DEPARTMENT – HUMAN DEVELOPMENT – FLOOD REDUCTION/CONTROL – WAR MEMORIAL – PARKS AND RECREATION – TOWING CONTRACT: The Mayor advised of the following expiration of terms of office on June 30, 2004:

Personnel and Employment Practices Commission	Tamara S. Asher and William C. Holland for terms ending June 30, 2007
Roanoke Valley Greenways Commission	Talfourd H. Kemper, Jr., for a term ending June 30, 2007
Roanoke Arts Commission	William B. Hopkins, Jr., Terri R. Jones, Mark C. McConnel and Kristi Pedelty for terms ending June 30, 2007
Roanoke Public Library Board	Herbert D. McBride for a term ending June 30, 2007
Roanoke Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau	A. Morris Turner, Jr., for a term ending June 30, 2005
Board of Fire Appeals	Edwin L. Noell, Bobby Lavender and Mark K. Cathey for terms ending June 30, 2008
Human Services Committee	H. Clarke Curtis, Frank W. Feather, Pam Kestner-Chappelear, Randy Leftwich and Jane R. Conlin for terms ending June 30, 2005
Flood Plain Committee	Lucian Y. Grove, Bill Tanger, Mack D. Cooper, Dennis Tinsley, Read A. Lunsford, Frank B. Caldwell, Herbert C. Berding, Jr., and Edgar V. Wheeler for terms ending June 30, 2005
War Memorial Committee	Alfred C. Moore, Robert O. Gray, Harold H. Sorrell, Sr., Philip C. Schirmer and Sloan H. Hoopes for terms ending June 30, 2005

Mill Mountain Advisory
Committee

E. C. Pace, III, Steven Higgs, Louise F. Kegley, Richard Clark, Eddie Wallace, Betty Field, Michael Loveman and Carl H. Kopitzke for terms ending June 30, 2005

Towing Advisory Board

Charles Brown and William F. Clark for terms ending June 30, 2007

The above named persons were reappointed to their respective committees for the above referenced terms of office by the following vote:

FOR MS. ASHER, MR. HOLLAND, MR. KEMPER, MR. HOPKINS, MS. JONES, MR. MCCONNEL, MS. PEDELTY, MR. MCBRIDE, MR. TURNER, MR. NOELL, MR. LAVENDER, MR. CATHEY, MR. CURTIS, MR. FEATHER, MS. KESTNER-CHAPPELEAR, MR. LEFTWICH, MS. CONLIN, MR. GROVE, MR. TANGER, MR. COOPER, MR. TINSLEY, MR. LUNSFORD, MR. CALDWELL, MR. BERDING, MR. WHEELER, MR. MOORE, MR. GRAY, MR. SORRELL, MR. SCHIRMER, MR. HOOPES, MR. PACE, MR. HIGGS, MS. KEGLEY, MR. CLARK, MR. WALLACE, MS. FIELD, MR. LOVEMAN, MR. KOPITZKE, MR. BROWN AND MR. CLARK: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----7.

Inasmuch as Ms. Jones, Ms. Kestner-Chappelear, Mr. Tanger, Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Schirmer, Mr. Brown and Mr. Clark are not residents of the City of Roanoke, Mr. Cutler moved that the City residency requirement be waived. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dowe and unanimously adopted.

At 5:45 p. m., the Mayor declared the Council meeting in recess until Friday, July 16, 2004, at 12:00 noon in the Shenandoah Room, The Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, for a presentation by Michael Boyd, President, Boyd Group Aviation Systems Research Group, on Community Team Building for Airports and the communities they serve, which meeting will be declared in recess until Monday, July 19, 2004, at 12:00 noon in Room 159, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, for a Council workshop to discuss the process for moving forward on the Victory Stadium issue.

The Tuesday, July 6, 2004, the regular meeting of Roanoke City Council, which was recessed until Friday, July 16, 2004, at 12:00 noon, in the Shenandoah Room, The Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, for a presentation by Michael Boyd, President, Boyd Group Aviation Systems Research Group, on Community Team Building for Airports and the communities they serve, was called to order, with Vice-Mayor Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., presiding.

PRESENT: Council Members M. Rupert Cutler and Vice-Mayor Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr.-----2.

ABSENT: Council Members Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., Sherman P. Lea, Brenda L. McDaniel, Brian J. Wishneff and Mayor C. Nelson Harris-----5.

OTHERS PRESENT: George C. Snead, Jr., Assistant City Manager for Operations; and Sheila N. Hartman, Assistant City Clerk.

AIRPORT: Michael Boyd, President, Boyd Group Aviation Systems Research Group, gave an overview of the following information:

- Realities of air service as related to fares, airline pricing, airline economics and airline decision making in general as specifically related to airports the size of the Roanoke Regional Airport
- Air service issues at Roanoke Regional Airport related to market size and demand vs. service levels and fares, and impact of regional jets and the concept of "leakage"
- The role that the Roanoke Regional Airport plays in the region as compared to service and fares with other similar airports and the strategies of "low fare" airlines
- The roles of the community and Roanoke Regional Airport concerning the on-going marketing program and efforts that can be made to work together to retain and improve air service

Where Roanoke stands:

- Roanoke has good service, access and some opportunities
- New Air Transportation Horizon
 - Flights are full, but losses are higher
 - A materially different cost environment
 - Material change in traffic drivers - whole new metrics
 - A different mix of passengers
 - Business travel is flat or declining
 - Airlines are consolidating - fewer airlines
- Traffic is fundamentally different, lost 70 million passengers between 2000 and 2003
- Airlines business is smaller
 - 20% revenue shortfall
 - No industry can absorb this without fundamental changes in the way they do business
 - Went from Pre - 9/11 - expansion to Post - 9/11 - survival
- Airline Industry - A new structure
 - Three basic structures - network airline systems, low-fare cherry-pickers, small jet providers to network systems (no longer any "regional" airlines)
 - Roanoke is connected to airline systems

Overview of Main Trends:

- Alliances – Continental Airlines participates
Collaborative competition – Access to smaller airline systems to serve smaller communities
Passenger planes with 50/70 seats
Fares will probably go up, but access is not going to drop
- Airline expansion strategies – low risk, high return, concentration on business travel
- Roanoke traffic is rebounding
- Roanoke service levels
Air service has improved since 9/11, more jet services, nonstop to New York
- Roanoke Hubs
Without connecting hubs, Roanoke would have much less service
Over half of Roanoke traffic is to or from cities that, each by themselves, represent less than 1% of the total
No single destination from Roanoke represents more than 3.75% of the total
The wide and diverse hub service at Roanoke is a competitive advantage
- Roanoke Airline Traffic Mix
US Airways (41.2%), Delta (31.8%), United (13.1%), Northwest (11.2%), Other (2.7%)
Delta is likely to increase share in 2004
US Airways is likely to decrease share due to closure of its hub at Pittsburgh
Roanoke has service from four major airline systems
Roanoke now has access to eight major connecting hubs, plus New York/LaGuardia (Washington–IAD, Charlotte, Atlanta, Cincinnati, Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh)
Exceptional access to Europe, plus two major airline gateways to Asia & China (Access to China will be critical to economic growth in the next decade)
Increasing levels of jet service
- Clouds on the Horizon
Delta – Restructuring, but Roanoke is a key part of the route system
United – Under FAA pressure to reduce flights into Chicago/O'Hare
US Airways – Closure of Pittsburgh hub is likely
- Fares Comparison
Greensboro is almost always less cost
Roanoke versus Richmond/Tri-Cities is comparable
Fare to Chicago – Of the three, Roanoke has lower fare

Roanoke and Airline Realities – I

- There are very few airlines
- New route decisions are based on highest return for increasingly expensive assets
- Airlines look to markets where they can gain net-new traffic with the lowest risk; hence, there is not a lot of expansion currently at mid-size and smaller airports
- Roanoke has service from all but two possible major airline systems – American and Continental
- Continental now has an alliance with Delta

Roanoke and Airline Realities – II

- The Airport has no control over airline decisions
- The Airport actively works to recruit new service and enhance existing service
- Attracting a low-fare carrier is a function of having more potential traffic than other (and larger) communities
- Competition: Colorado Springs, Fresno, Richmond, and at least a dozen more
- Competition: Dallas/Ft. Worth, Las Vegas, Milwaukee

Low-Fare Service not out of the picture

- New economics: the passenger hurdles are way up
- Figure 400,000 for Southwest
- Bigger markets and opportunities elsewhere
- AirTran at Dulles/Ft. Worth; Spirit at Detroit; Frontier at Los Angeles
- Roanoke is a bit down the ladder

Independence Air

- Roanoke is a near certain target
- The business model (small jets with low fares) is not yet proven
- One of America's best managed companies
- Concept: Lower fares, not necessarily rock-bottom
- Current strategy: markets that can support 5-6 daily flights to Washington, without connecting traffic

Other potential new service

- Continental: Some potential for Houston
- American: Some potential for Dallas/Ft. Worth
- JetBlue: Possible, but not before 2007, probably, due to aircraft deliveries

- Frontier: Now expanding mostly into Mexico and large markets from Los Angeles (Not in the cards)
- ATA: An option for service to Chicago/Midway; not likely until they order small jets (not on the horizon yet)

What the community can do

- Roanoke has strong air service
- Fares are not out of line with smaller airports
- Before booking - check out Roanoke first
- Support for the current service will bring more service
- Assure suppliers and family members from other areas - check out Roanoke first
- Consider value of time

Council Member Cutler suggested that the coalition that pledged \$2 million for a travel bank to bolster use of airlines should assign persons to continually monitor airfares and publicize low fares out of Roanoke through a "Check Roanoke First" campaign, using local news media.

Mr. Boyd noted that some localities use their websites to publish this type of information and agreed that Roanoke has something going in regard to disseminating information to the public and suggested that Roanoke continue to build on the concept.

Inasmuch as the Pittsburgh hub will close within the year, J. Granger Macfarlane, member of the Roanoke Regional Airport Commission, inquired if it would be appropriate and valuable for Roanoke to continue to call upon Continental Airlines to substitute the Cleveland hub for the loss of the Pittsburgh hub, which would add another carrier to the area and may open up the Houston hub.

Jacqueline L. Shuck, Executive Director, Roanoke Regional Airport, replied that she recently met with representatives of Continental Airlines, they are reviewing the matter and have expressed an interest in a Roanoke hub.

Mr. Boyd stated that the loss of the Pittsburgh hub would be a problem, but some of the flights may be picked up through the northeast; and if US Airways went out of business tomorrow, the gap in service would probably be filled quickly by others.

Mr. Cutler suggested that the airport could tie into the Metro Bus Line from Blacksburg to Roanoke, and commuters could ride the bus to the airport in lieu of driving.

Mr. Boyd stated that something similar was tried by the City of Harrisonburg for the Shenandoah Valley which did not work well because most people prefer the convenience of their personal vehicle.

In the interest of economic development, Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick inquired if there will come a time when a combination of airlines will come together as partners, with a willingness to build a structure such as a maintenance facility, and will this be helpful in recruiting another airline.

Mr. Boyd responded that American Eagle built a maintenance facility in Michigan and because of that, they now service Chicago, which they would not have done otherwise; and having a maintenance facility would be a positive draw for the area.

Ms. Shuck noted that the Roanoke Regional Airport presently has a maintenance facility for turbo props; and Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick asked about the feasibility of a maintenance service for jets.

At 1:40 p.m., the Vice-Mayor declared the Council meeting in recess until Monday, July 19, 2004, at 12:00 noon in Room 159, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, for a Council workshop to discuss the process for moving forward on the Victory Stadium issue.

The Tuesday, July 6, 2004, regular meeting of City Council which was recessed until Friday, July 16, 2004 and further recessed until Monday, July 19, 2004, reconvened at 12:00 noon in Room 159, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, for a workshop to discuss the process for moving forward on the Victory Stadium issue, with Mayor C. Nelson Harris presiding.

PRESENT: Council Members M. Rupert Cutler, Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., Sherman P. Lea, Brenda F. McDaniel, Brian J. Wishneff and Mayor C. Nelson Harris-----7.

ABSENT: None-----0.

The Mayor declared the existence of a quorum.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney, Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Council Member Lea.

STADIUM: The Mayor advised that the purpose of the work session is not to study the fate of Victory Stadium, but to gain a consensus from the Council on the process by which a decision can ultimately be made. He opened the floor for comments by Council Members.

Council Member Wishneff presented the following proposal:

1. A citizens committee (Stadium Committee) be created to manage the evaluation process for studying the alternatives related to a Public Assembly/Sports Facility (Facility) for Victory Stadium (VS) and to make recommendations to Council on the best alternative(s).
2. The Stadium Committee would look at three program needs for the community: (1) sports (such as football, soccer and lacrosse), (2) an outdoor track, and (3) public assembly activities such as "The Walk for Life" and the July 4th concert.
3. Two alternative locations will be thoroughly evaluated for the sports component (VS and placing a facility at each high school), three alternatives for the track (VS, at each high school or in a separate location) and two alternatives for the public assembly facility (VS and at each high school).
4. The duties of the Stadium Committee would include:

Interviewing, selecting and negotiating a contract with a consulting team that should include architecture, engineering, marketing firms (consultants) to do a thorough evaluation of the cost of renovating VS for use as any or all of the three program needs, building a new facility at the two high schools or any or all of the three program needs, and an off-site alternative(s) for the track on land already owned by a public entity; the consultants shall legally work for the City but practically (day to day) for the Stadium Committee.

It will be up to the Stadium Committee to determine the scope of the consultants' work and to determine the various levels of quality and program alternatives to be studied at each of the locations.

Interview potential users (high schools, colleges/universities, sports clubs, promoters, State associations, others) about their needs and interest in using such facilities.

Working with the consultants, determine support facility and infrastructure needs, (parking, ingress, egress, environmental impact), for each location and program alternative.

Meet with groups whose surrounding facilities might be needed to enhance the various alternatives; for example, Carilion and the School Board would be approached about shared parking opportunities.

Working with the consultants, hold meetings with groups/entities (School Board, Carilion, PTA's, surrounding neighborhoods) to gain an understanding of the issues that might arise from the various alternatives and possible solutions to those issues.

Consultants work should include cost estimates for the various alternatives.

Use a variety of means (public meetings, media, etc.) to gather public comment on the alternatives.

The Sports Committee should rank various alternatives from most desirable to least desirable.

5. The Stadium Committee shall be made up of 15 people, which would include two appointees by each Council Member and Brian Wishneff as Council liaison; and each Council appointee must have the unanimous consent of the Council in order to be appointed.

6. Each Council Member shall have names to bring for Council consideration at the August 2, 2004, meeting for approval by Council at the meeting.

7. The Stadium Committee would be subject to all of the same FOI rules/regulations as City Council.

8. The Stadium Committee shall select a chair and vice-chair from among its members at its first meeting.

9. The Stadium Committee shall strive to complete its work within nine months of August 2, 2004.

10. Council shall appropriate \$150,000.00 for the Stadium Committee to carry out its work.

11. The City Clerk's Office shall provide secretarial support.

12. The City Manager, Finance Director and City Attorney's Office shall send a representative to each meeting of the Stadium Committee and provide support and assistance as requested.

Mr. Wishneff further advised that from a program or space point of view, there are four kinds of uses: (1) team sports at all levels of college and high school, (2) outdoor track and field, (3) outdoor use for community events over 10,000 persons, and (4) outdoor music events (more quality type events) which should be studied separately since a more specialized facility will be needed. He called attention to the need to address program issues, the question of whether the facility study is driven by a citizens committee or City Council directly, the role of City staff, location, i.e.: Victory Stadium, two high schools and an independent location, and to begin some type of advertising process. He stated that he has recommended appointment of a citizen committee to review the first three program needs, but not the small music venue, and to consider Victory Stadium as well as the two high schools and an independent site for track and field purposes; the committee would hire, interview and select a consulting team that would be composed of architects and engineers and others to evaluate cost, programs, the number of users ranging from high school, to recreation, to colleges and universities, in addition to critical issues like parking, ingress, egress, to meet with affected bodies such as the School Board, surrounding neighborhoods, Parent-Teacher Associations and ultimately propose a cost estimate for various alternatives. At the end of the process, he advised that Council will have all of the information it needs to make an informed decision.

Council Member Dowe advised that it was his understanding that the process was to address two issues: Victory Stadium or the specific Williamson Road/Orange Avenue site. He stated that the connotation is that the process is starting over if the scope of the study is to look at high schools and field opportunities, and, if that is the case, there is then a whole different level of ideas that some members of Council were not privy to; and other venues, other jurisdictions and other possibilities will need to be considered. He added that a delay in the process will involve the loss of several more years, and a possible change in the leadership of the City. He reiterated that it was his understanding that the issue was the renovation, practicality and cost effectiveness of Victory Stadium versus the Williamson Road/Orange Avenue site, and to this point he has not heard any mention of the Williamson Road/Orange Avenue site; whereupon, he inquired if the site is off the table, and if so, what will be done with the Williamson Road/Orange Avenue location.

Council Member Cutler advised that he would not be in favor of wasting all of the time, effort and investment that has gone into the Williamson Road/Orange Avenue site, which must be among the alternatives to be reviewed just as intensively as Victory Stadium, the two high school sites, and a combination stadium/amphitheater, etc. He presented a Proposed Roanoke Stadium Location Decision Matrix which includes more alternatives than were suggested by Mr. Wishneff that starts with the Williamson Road/Orange Avenue Stadium/Amphitheater because the site is already owned, prepared and plans are ready to proceed. Secondly, he suggested looking at the feasibility of continuing to develop the Williamson Road/Orange Avenue site as an amphitheater

comparable to the nearby Civic Center and work with the high schools to gain support from the neighborhoods around Patrick Henry and William Fleming High Schools for construction of high school football stadiums and tracks at each high school site. He stated that because the Patrick Henry site is smaller than the William Fleming site and the residential neighborhood is in closer proximity, the proposal might meet with more success by the neighborhood if a smaller football facility (1000 seats) is constructed at Patrick Henry and a larger stadium (6000 seats) is constructed at William Fleming, while continuing to develop the Orange Avenue and Williamson Road site as an amphitheater. Thirdly, he stated that Victory Stadium should be looked at in the context of a concert stage and a sports stadium, with a concert/amphitheater at another location. He also referred to a suggestion made by a local citizen, Sam Lionberger, that consideration be given to a site across Interstate 581 from Valley View Mall, and there may be other locations that should be considered. He mentioned the desirability of a regional facility; a study should not be limited to Victory Stadium and the two high schools; other program needs include the track and field opportunity; and the feasibility of maintaining one of the grandstands at Victory Stadium to review track and field events, lacrosse and other sports. He stated that he does not advocate the prompt razing of Victory Stadium because of the historic value of the facility; 4th of July activities can be celebrated on any flat piece of ground in the City and 4th of July celebrations could be held along the Roanoke River.

Council Member McDaniel advised that she is not totally sold on the idea of appointing a committee. First, she stated that Council needs to reach a consensus on the scope of the study and how far back it wishes to go, she would like to see the Orange Avenue site included in the study, she is cool to the idea of constructing smaller stadiums in neighborhoods because of lighting, traffic, littering, and noise issues, and because residents will be concerned about their neighborhoods which could detract attention from the larger issue of what to do about Victory Stadium, and what kind of facility is needed, etc. She stressed the need to look at what will provide the long term greater benefit to the citizens of Roanoke, and it would be advantageous to engage in a facility study on the cost of renovating Victory Stadium which appears to be the point where the process was derailed for lack of good and meaningful cost estimates. She suggested a review of previous studies of Victory Stadium and a comparison of the figures with the Orange Avenue site.

Council Member Lea advised that the citizens of the City of Roanoke spoke loud and clear on two occasions this year with regard to their wishes for Victory Stadium. He stated that there have always been options and alternatives, but the citizens of Roanoke have stated clearly that they want Council to resolve the issue of Victory Stadium and the question, first and foremost, should be whether Victory Stadium can be renovated, and, if so, at what cost. He added that it is not his position to look at other alternatives, and he supports all of the focus being placed on Victory Stadium.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick advised that he did not campaign on the issue of Victory Stadium, but on the premise that he would be willing to look at a reconsideration of Victory Stadium. He stated that the broad picture is not about Victory Stadium, but about spending taxpayers' dollars responsibly, to ensure that we know what kind of sports venue is needed for high school students, be it a stadium or a track, and to look at potential entertainment needs of not just the City of Roanoke, but the entire Roanoke Valley. He added that nothing that has been discussed thus far; i.e.: a high school stadium at each of the high schools or Victory Stadium has any return on investment that fills up hotel rooms, or brings additional meals taxes to the community, or places money back into the community. He advised that the City has a responsibility to provide basic football, track and other needs for its students, but the bottom line is: what does the Roanoke Valley need in the way of entertainment facilities and what is needed for high school sports. He stated that no core drillings have been made at Victory Stadium to determine the facility's structural condition, costs have been estimated, but the bigger picture is the need to look at a regional entertainment venue that affords the opportunity for Roanoke County, the City of Salem and the Town of Vinton to participate and to share in revenues. He advised that the City of Roanoke is an unusual and unique place for a city of its size, it provides a stadium that seats 25,000 people, when the average football game attracts approximately 1000 people; and taking into consideration all of the venues, deleting the 4th of July celebration and Festival in the Park, there are less than 20,000 people who attend events at Victory Stadium each year, therefore, he will be hard pressed to spend large amounts of tax dollars on Victory Stadium without considerably more information and a better understanding of the future needs of the Roanoke Valley. He stressed the need for a thorough study of what the region could support, the kinds of entertainment that the region needs to look at, whether or not people will come to the Roanoke Valley if the right kind of regional venue is constructed, and what is the ultimate cost to renovate Victory Stadium.

Council Member Dowe advised that numerous and great ideas could eventually be uncovered, but there is a need to focus on the price of a thorough study that will reveal the cost to make Victory Stadium feel different. He said that athletic leaders and promoters have stated that the Roanoke community has a hard time supporting events, therefore, they do not select Roanoke and choose instead to go to Greensboro, or Richmond, or Charlotte, etc., where they know they can promote at least one or more successful shows.

Dr. Cutler referred to the diversity that is represented on the Council and the expertise that each Council Member brings to the table. He stated that his level of expertise in is natural resources management, including water management, flood control issues, etc., therefore, one cannot lose site of the fact that the Roanoke River will flood the site of Victory Stadium every few years; the State is unable to fund the Roanoke River Flood Reduction Project due to lack of funds and no funds are included in the 2005 budget of the Corp of Engineers to

help with the flood reduction project on the Roanoke River. Even if funds were included, he advised that design of the project is only to reduce flooding from a high peak to a somewhat less high peak and not to totally eliminate flooding, and if Victory Stadium were rebuilt, it would be necessary to rebuild the field at least ten feet higher than it is today in addition to rebuilding the infrastructure at an exorbitant cost. He stated that the reality is that the Victory Stadium site presents a flooding problem and will continue to be a site that will flood, therefore, how can the City continue to invest more tax dollars in a flood prone site.

Council Member Lea advised that his main focus continues to be on Victory Stadium, and certain colleges and universities have expressed an interest in playing football games at the facility.

The Mayor advised that there appears to be several issues that have evolved around today's discussion; i.e.: high school athletics (there is an issue as to where Patrick Henry and William Fleming will play football and an unresolved issue about an appropriate track and field venue for track teams that has been ongoing for several years); (2) an issue regarding a regional entertainment venue – the amphitheater concept and whether there is a market to support an amphitheater, etc.; (3) Victory Stadium as an already existing facility; and (4) what can be done with Victory Stadium if another alternative is pursued. He stated that he would like for the Council to gain some consensus on whether these are issues that the Council would like to study, or is the Council of a mind to appoint a citizens committee to study and make recommendations. He called attention to the amount of time that will be required to study the issues; and, in the past, Council has utilized citizens for these types of undertakings, such as the City's Comprehensive Plan, and the School Safety Task Force report, etc. He called attention to the opportunity to appoint a citizens committee composed of persons with the kinds of background and expertise that could make a well rounded and diverse committee, with backgrounds in architecture, engineering, economic development, marketing, etc. He inquired if there is a consensus by the Council to appoint a citizens committee, or is this an assignment that the Council would like to pursue.

Council Member Cutler advised that if he were appointed to a citizens committee, he would want to have updated information on alternatives; prior studies of Victory Stadium are several years old in respect to the costs of different levels of renovations, therefore, he would support updating the studies in current dollars, in addition to information on what has already been invested in the Williamson Road/Orange Avenue site, how much it will cost to complete the site, and information on other site alternatives and locations. He inquired about a time line to update the studies prior to appointing a citizens committee, or should the citizens committee be allowed to identify the types of information that should be updated.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick advised that Council should remain involved in the process in order to obtain the right kinds of information, such as structural studies of Victory Stadium, including in-depth core drillings, etc., information on the number of attendees at such events as high school football games, the Western Virginia Classic, 4th of July celebration, Festival in the Park, etc., market studies of entertainment and sporting events that have examined venues the size of Roanoke to gain a better understanding of whether or not people will come to Roanoke for entertainment, and the cost of operation of Victory Stadium (what is the City currently spending and what should be spent to maintain the facility). He stated that before appointing a citizens committee, certain basic information should be in hand and Council should be the entity that decides what information is needed in conjunction with City staff, and after the information is in hand, Council will then be in a position to make a decision on whether to study the matter or appoint a citizens committee.

Although the Mayor's point is well taken, Council Member McDaniel questioned whether a citizens committee is needed. She advised that there have been significant successes with citizen committees, but she is haunted by the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Committee and the Roanoke Sister Cities Sculpture Committee, both of which took considerable time before a consensus was reached and she would not want to see that happen in this instance. She stated that if a citizens committee is appointed, it will be necessary to establish a well defined charge for the committee.

Council Member Dowe agreed with the remarks of Ms. McDaniel and advised that his fear rests in the process which could uncover many great ideas that could conceivably take the process back to square one and could lead to the involvement of other jurisdictions and studies, therefore, he expressed reservations because of the time involved and the availability of investment.

Council Member Wishneff advocated that a citizens committee is the preferred alternative because a considerable amount of frustration in the past was related to the process. He stated that the amphitheater will require a different type of study because it involves a different concept.

The Mayor advised that there are two issues: (1) the athletic issue – high school as well as beyond high school, and (2) the entertainment question relative to an amphitheater. He inquired if the athletic question could be addressed by the citizens committee; i.e.: the issue of high school football, Victory Stadium, track and field, while Council embraces the entertainment question.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick advised that a policy issue that needs to be addressed by Council is whether or not the City of Roanoke has a responsibility to provide athletic facilities for Roanoke City Schools.

In order to reach a consensus by the Council, the Mayor requested that Council Members provide him with their input regarding the charge for a citizens committee prior to the August 2 Council meeting, and based upon the responses by Council, he will draft a document that will be reflective of the wishes of the Council as a whole prior to the August 2, 2004, Council meeting. He also suggested that Council Members be prepared to recommend at least two persons per Council Member to serve on a citizens committee.

Council Member Wishneff suggested appointment of two Council liaisons to the citizens committee (a person who is associated with each view).

There was discussion in regard to the advisability of appointing a member(s) of Council to the citizens committee; whereupon, it was noted that the presence of a Council Member could sway decisions by the committee.

In order to reach a consensus, the Mayor suggested that a Council liaison not be appointed, that Council agree to select a Chair or two Co-Chairs of the committee, and that status reports be provided to the Council on a regular basis.

In summary, the Mayor requested that Council Members provide him with their suggestions regarding the scope of the citizens committee prior to the August 2, 2004, meeting of the Council, which will enable him to prepare a consensus of the Council for discussion on Monday, August 2, and that Council Members be prepared to recommend two persons each to serve on the citizens committee, which will be discussed in closed session under the category of vacancies on various boards and commissions. He emphasized that the citizens committee will address the athletic question and he will work with the City Manager to identify a process for Council to address the entertainment question, amphitheater, regional possibilities, etc.

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

A P P R O V E D

ATTEST:

Mary F. Parker
City Clerk

C. Nelson Harris
Mayor

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